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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 May Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Message From USSR's Gorbachev *[KUNA]* 3
PLO's 'Arafat To Visit Jordan 'Next Week' *[WAKH]* 3
Fatah, 'Dissidents' Agree on Peace Plan *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 3
'Atallah 'Atallah on 'Uprising,' King Husayn *[Amman AL-QUDS 16 May]* 3
'Uprising' Leadership Issues 'Call No 17' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak Departs on Official Visit to YAR 8

Sudan

Bomb Suspects Claim To Belong to Abu Nidal Group *[MENA]* 8
Al-Mirghani Receives Tanzania's Nyerere 8
Al-Mirghani To Attend 7 Jun Arab Summit 8
Egypt Mediating Between Government, Rebels 8
Spokesman Denies Rebel Siege of Tawarit 9

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat 9
Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi Arrives for Visit 9
'Tumultuous Welcome' *[JANA]* 9
Press Statement Issued 9

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Algerian Minister Arrives in Bahrain 21 May 11
Amir Receives Algerian Envoy 11
Envoy Departs for Doha 11

Kuwait

Amir Receives Message From Algerian Envoy 11
Algerian Envoy Departs 11

Oman

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives, Holds Talks 11

PDRY

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives on Visit 12

Qatar

Amir Receives Algerian Envoy, Summit Invitation 12

Saudi Arabia

Prince Nayif on Talks With Egyptian President 12

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives, Makes Statement 13
President Receives Aqazadeh 13
Algerian Envoy Arrives 23 May With Message 13

Yemen Arab Republic

Egyptian President Arrives in Sanaa 22 May 13
Salih, Mubarak Speak 14
Al-Baz Comments on Meeting *[MENA]* 15
Salih, Mubarak Resume Talks 15
Algerian Envoy Arrives With Summit Invitation 15
President Receives Invitation 16
Algerian Official Departs 16
Deputy Prime Minister Returns From USSR Visit 16

IRAQ

Vernon Walters Arrives in Baghdad 21 May 17
Tariq 'Aziz Meets Walters 17
Hammadi, Walters Confer 17
Walters Ends Visit 17
Defense Minister Inspects Central Sector 17
RCC Removes Division Commander for Al-Faw Failure *[AL-THAWRAH 18 May]* 18
Memorandums Exchanged With UK on Tanker Attack 18
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 19
Communique No 3,184 19
Spokesman Denies Bombing 19
Communique No 3,185 20
Communique No 3,186 20
Communique No 3,187 20

ISRAEL

Dubinin Document 'Unexpected' Soviet 'Shift' *[MA'ARIV 23 May]* 22
Ben-Aharon Sees No 'Shift' in Soviet Stand 22
Peres Returns From U.S., Issues Statement 24
Army Suspects Arms Smuggling From Egypt to Gaza *[HA'ARETZ 19 May]* 24
Lubrani Comments on Syrian Moves in Lebanon 24
Sentence of Jewish Underground Convicts Commuted 25
Paper Editors Charged With Membership in DFLP 25
'Leftists' Stage Anti-Detention Demonstrations 25
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 25
Policeman Injured in Nabulus 25
E. Jerusalem Schools Reopen 25
2 Killed, 4 Wounded 22 May 26
Detention System Reorganized 26
Administrative Detention Data 26
Hebron Notable Publishes Book on 'Uprising' 26

JORDAN

King To Lead Delegation to Algerian Summit *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 27
Statement by West Bank Figures in Amman Banned *[Radio Monte Carlo]* 27
Soviet Ambassador Holds News Conference 22 May *[JORDAN TIMES 23 May]* 27
AL-RA'Y on Zinchuk Briefing *[23 May]* 28

LEBANON

2 Kuwaiti Airliner Hijackers Reportedly Killed 29
Negotiations for Syrian Suburb Entry Continue 29
Kan'an Returns From Damascus *[KUNA]* 29
Fadlallah Says Suburb 'Open' *[VOL]* 29
4-Party Committee Meets *[RFL]* 29
Planned 'Holy Jihad' Denied *[VONR]* 29
Canadian Envoy, Fadlallah Meet *[VOL]* 29
Agreement Reached on Hostages *[MENA]* 30
Hizballah Demands Guarantees *[RFL]* 30
Iran's Besharati Cited *[VOL]* 30
Hizballah, Kan'an Meet *[VOL]* 30
Hizballah 'Source' Cited on Conflict With Amal *[RFL]* 31
Iranian 'Snatched'; Handed Over to Syrians *[VOL]* 31
Agreement Sought on Inter-Palestinian Conflicts 31
Plan Unveiled *[VOL]* 31
Clashes in Camps Ease 32
Fighting in Shatila Resumes *[VOL]* 32
Freed French Hostage Denies TIMES Story *[AFP]* 32
Paper Discusses French, Korean Hostage Ransoms *[WAM]* 32

SYRIA

Vernon Walters Arrives in Damascus 20 May 33
Al-Asad Meets Walters 33
Al-Asad Receives Message From Iranian Envoy 33
Lebanon's Fadlallah Reportedly Invited to Syria *[WAM]* 33
CSSR Delegation Arrives, Holds Talks 23 May 33
Paper Stresses Dialogue To Solve Lebanese Crisis 33
U.S. Support for Israel Makes Shultz Tour Futile *[TISHRIN 9 May]* 34
Paper Cited on Egypt's Stand on 'Uprising' 34
Briefs 35
New Media Directors 35

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed by Indian, Canadian TV 36
Downplays Zahir Shah Role *[AFP]* 36
Remarks on PDPA's Role *[Delhi]* 36
3d Soviet Convoy Arrives in Kabul From Jalalabad *[AFP]* 36
3d Memorandum on Pakistani Violation of Accords 37
'Cosmetic' Cabinet Reshuffle Expected 'This Week' *[AFP]* 37
National Assembly Delegates Urged To Register 38
Armed Forces Operations Against 'Extremists' 38
Group 'Crushed' in Kabul 38
Plot 'Foiled' in Nangarhar 38
Faryab, Badghis Groups Crushed 38
'Extremists' Shell Residential Areas in Sarkani 38
Attack Ghazni 20 May 39

Mujahidin Combat Operations, Successes Reported 39
Block Roads to Jalalabad *[Beijing XINHUA]* 39
Take Key Garrison in Panjsher *[AFP]* 39
Capture Paktia Munitions Depot *[AFP]* 40
Kill 18 Soviet Troops in Herat *[IRNA]* 40
AFP Interviews Mujahidin Field Commander 40

Bangladesh

Police Halt Multireligious Rally 22 May *[AFP]* 41

India

High-Level Meeting Considers Antiterrorist Steps 41
Further Reportage on Situation at Golden Temple 41
Cleanup Operations Completed 41
Temple Sanctity Restored 42
Temple To Reopen for Rituals 42
Controversy Over Rituals *[AFP]* 42
Governor on Sikh 'Terrorists' 43
19 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist'-Related Acts 43
More Forces Sent To Increase Punjab Security 44
3 Killed in Punjab Railway Station Blast 44
Auranagabad Situation 'Under Control'; 23 Dead 44
Further Reports of Darjeeling Violence Noted 44
State Minister Threatened 44
Oil Exploration Contract Signed With Vietnam *[Hanoi VNA]* 44

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 45
First Sermon 45
Second Sermon on Polls, U.S. 46
Qom Theologians Refute Media Allegations 50
Council of Guardians Considers Draft Bill 50
USSR's Ryzhkov Sends Message on Chemical Weapons 50
Larijani Backs UN Proposal on Naming Aggressor 50
Efforts To Broker Peace in Lebanon 'Success' 51
Iraqi Claim of Downing Helicopter Denied 51
Air Force Commander Denies Iraq Downed F-14 51
WIH Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim on Basra Attack 51
'Zolfaqar' Sea Maneuvers in Persian, Oman Gulfs 51
Maneuvers End Successfully 52
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue 52
Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Paveh 52
Communique No 3,208 53
Iraqi Forces 'Razed' Villages 53
Peshmergas Destroy Iraqi HQs 53
IRGC on Kurdish Moves in Iraq 53
Joint Staff Communique 53
Iraqi Plane Repelled Over Ilam 54
Air Force Reconnoiters Ships 54
Flag of Freedom on Unrest, Khomeyni's Poor Health 54
Flag of Freedom Reports IRGC Coup Attempt 54

Pakistan

Shi'ite, Sunni Muslims Clash in Gilgit *[AFP]* 55
Press Statement Issued on Siachen Issue 55
Junejo Departs on East Asian 'Goodwill Visit' 55
Comments on Relations 56
Ziaul Haq Notes Upcoming Visit to China 56
President Stresses 'Effective Defense Machinery' 56

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Invites JVP To Abandon Violence 56
Indian Officer, Soldier Killed in Landmine Blast 57
JVP Poses 'Biggest' Challenge to Government *[AFP]* 57
Paper Hopeful About Peace Accord With JVP *[DAILY NEWS 12 May]* 58

23 May Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2305133088 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Talks on Southern Suburb—An Iranian proposal for the formation of a joint Syrian-Iranian security force to enter the southern suburb of Beirut was rejected by Syrian and Amal Movement representatives on the quadripartite security committee, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Hizballah's representative did not attend the meeting, which took place late on 22 May. The radio also cited reports that Iran's objection to a Syrian move into the suburb is based on two factors: its insistence that the objective for which U.S. hostages were taken be fulfilled; and its concern to safeguard the political future of Hizballah.

Nevertheless, "pro-Syrian" sources had earlier maintained that Syria and Iran were putting the "final touches" to plans for the deployment of Syrian troops in the suburb, according to the radio. As for the Amal-Hizballah clashes, the radio said the intensity of the fighting eased over the weekend, though another 15 people were killed or wounded, bringing total casualties to 215 dead and 1,278 wounded.

The Syrian-Iranian contacts over the weekend included a 20 May meeting in Damascus between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, who delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, according to Damascus radio. IRNA reported that Al-Asad stressed the need to continue Iranian-Syrian efforts to end the clashes in Beirut. The agency attributed the reduction in Amal-Hizballah tension to the success of joint mediation efforts.

On Hizballah's position, a Hizballah spokesman cited by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reaffirmed that his party does not oppose a Syrian deployment in the suburb, but it demands guarantees concerning Hizballah's future political action and military activities. Sources close to Hizballah explained that the latter will not relinquish its gains in the suburb while the Amal Movement refuses to give back former Hizballah positions in the south, the radio said. Meanwhile, Shi'ite mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan told AL-SHIRA' that "our battle is not with Hizballah but with Iran," and he urged the Iranians to "leave us alone before it is too late," according to the clandestine Voice of the People radio.

Inter-Palestinian Cease-Fire—Clashes in Burj al-Barajinah between Fatah and Fatah dissidents eased after both sides accepted an eight-point cease-fire agreement sponsored by other Palestinian factions, Beirut radio reported 22 May. The agreement provides for Fatah to hand over positions it captured from its opponents to a disengagement force. The cease-fire followed "unprecedented" clashes on 20 May in which 8 people were killed and 61 wounded, Voice of Lebanon radio noted. Total casualties in the inter-Palestinian fighting between 30 April and 21 May are estimated at 33 dead and 239 wounded, according to Radio Monte Carlo. Outside Lebanon, the clandestine Al-Quds Palestinian Arab radio broadcast an appeal for Palestinians in the Beirut refugee camps to "rise and stop the bloody fighting," which "the enemies are gloating over."

Israel

Three Arabs were killed in continuing violence in the territories 21-22 May, Jerusalem television reported. The bodies of two of the victims were found in a burned car north of Tulkarm, and an investigation is under way to determine whether the vehicle was attacked by Molotov cocktails. Two Israeli civilians were wounded in Molotov cocktail attacks over the weekend, Jerusalem radio disclosed, noting that one was severely burned.

In Baghdad, Voice of the PLO radio broadcast "Call No 17" by the "Unified National Leadership of the Palestinian Uprising," which outlined a new program of action until the end of May. The statement designated 25 May as a day of comprehensive strike to mark the 40 days since the assassination of PLO official Khalil al-Wazir, and it issued a "firm, final demand" for the resignation of Palestinian policemen, members of appointed municipal councils, and supervisors in the civilian administration.

Egypt

Consultations With USSR—A joint communique issued at the end of Foreign Minister Ahmad 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid's 3-day visit to the Soviet Union expressed satisfaction with the "positive and marked progress" in bilateral relations, MENA reported 21 May, adding that a protocol signed by the two sides provides "wide prospects" for new modes of cooperation in economic, trade, technical, and scientific spheres. Carried in full by TASS, the communique noted that the talks were held in an "atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding" and stressed the need to take "urgent measures to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement" of Mideast problems.

MENA pointed out that, according to Soviet sources, the rescheduling of the foreign minister's talks with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev to occur before the first session of official talks was "unprecedented." 'Abd al-Majid told Moscow radio that a "new page" in Soviet-Egyptian relations has been opened. He also disclosed that Gorbachev has given him a message for President Husni Mubarak.

Relations With Arabian Peninsula—President Mubarak was welcomed to Sanaa 22 May by his YAR counterpart, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, MENA reported, noting that this is the first time in 24 years that an Egyptian president has visited the YAR. According to an Egyptian Foreign

Ministry official, the two presidents discussed "important" pan-Arab and Mideast issues and made a "comprehensive assessment of future possibilities." Before his departure for the YAR, Mubarak received Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif, who delivered a verbal message from King Fahd on "bilateral ties, cooperation, and Islamic issues," the agency noted.

Nasirist Trial—The trial of 15 Nasirist defendants accused of conspiring to carry out "hostile acts" in collaboration with Libyan intelligence began in Cairo 21 May, MENA reported, adding that the case was continued until 21 June.

Sudan

Abu Nidal Connection—The three suspects in custody for the recent attacks on the Acropol Hotel and a British social club belong to the Abu Nidal group, Fatah—The Revolutionary Council, according to an AL-USBU' report cited by MENA 22 May. The paper noted that the defendants, who hold Lebanese passports, entered the Sudan with the intention of attacking U.S. and British interests.

War in South—Egypt is making "intensive" efforts to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and SPLA leader John Garang, a 22 May AL-AYYAM report cited by SUNA disclosed. The agency also reported armed forces assurances that the military is in "total control" of Tawarit, thus refuting reports that rebel forces are besieging that town in the Equatoria region.

Maghreb Affairs

At the invitation of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi traveled to Jarbah Island 22 May for consultations on bilateral cooperation and regional affairs, according to a press statement carried by Tunis radio. The two leaders expressed satisfaction over positive developments in Maghreb relations and stressed the need to ensure the free movement of people and goods in the area as well as to work toward implementing various international projects in the spheres of communications, energy, industry, agriculture and fisheries, and social welfare. According to a Tunis radio report, Ben Ali and Al-Qadhdhafi also met to coordinate their stances at the upcoming OAU and Arab summits.

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi air strikes are targeted against Iranian positions "along the border only," according to a military spokesman cited by INA. The spokesman was rebutting an IRNA report that more than 30 civilians were killed 20 May when Iraqi aircraft bombed Paveh, Bakhtaran. An Iranian military spokesman refuted Iraqi charges that artillery shells caused civilian casualties and damage in Basra, IRNA reported. The agency also carried denials of Iraqi claims that two Iranian aircraft were shot down over the weekend.

In the southern Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, the Islamic Armed Forces successfully completed the "Zolfaqar" maneuvers, Tehran radio reported 23 May. Airborne and naval units practiced various "progressive" tactics and demonstrated their readiness to defend the Islamic Republic's sovereignty and interests in the area.

Afghanistan

"International agreements will not have any value" if the United States continues to arm the rebels, President Najibullah declared in remarks cited by AFP 21 May. He hoped that the United States would abide by the pledge it made as a guarantor of the Geneva accords.

According to resistance sources cited by XINHUA, Afghan mujahidin have blocked all roads to Jalalabad, including the major east-west highway to Kabul.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Receives Message From USSR's Gorbachev

LD2305085188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0823 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Tunis, May 23 (KUNA)—Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization Yasir 'Arafat met here last night with Soviet ambassador to Tunisia and handed him a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on the Palestine cause and the Middle East crises it was announced here Sunday.

The message came before the American-Soviet summit, scheduled to be held in Moscow on the 29th of this month, a PLO official source said.

This visit comes within the policy of exchanging messages and opinions between Soviet and PLO leaderships based on the strong bilateral relations, the source added.

PLO's 'Arafat To Visit Jordan 'Next Week'

JN2305085188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Doha, 23 May (WAKH)—Press reports said here today that Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has agreed to accept the invitation of the Jordanian monarch King Husayn to visit Jordan next week. In a dispatch from Baghdad, the Qatari paper AL-RAYAH said 'Arafat will meet with King Husayn to coordinate stands to support the continuation of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory.

Fatah, 'Dissidents' Agree on Peace Plan

JN2205062688 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The Fatah Movement and the dissidents have agreed to the draft agreement that was prepared by seven other Palestinian factions at dawn yesterday to definitely end the battles that have been raging intermittently between 'Arafat's fighters and the supporters of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps south of Beirut since 30 April.

The two warring parties distributed two separate statements in Beirut yesterday in which they commit themselves to respect the eight points of the agreement, particularly the point stating that the Fatah Movement must hand over the dissidents' positions it occupied in the Burj al-Barajinah and Shatila camps to the Palestinian disengagement force that was formed from the other seven Palestinian factions which have not participated in the battles of the two camps.

The two parties began to implement the provisions of the agreement yesterday in spite of the limited cease-fire violations. As a result of these violations, 1 person was killed and 2 others were wounded in Burj al-Barajinah yesterday morning, thus bringing the total number of casualties sustained during the fighting between Fatah and the dissidents to 33 dead and 239 wounded.

It has also been learned from the joint Palestinian committee that is charged with supervising the implementation of the agreement that Fatah and the dissidents exchanged prisoners in Burj al-Barajinah at noon yesterday. Sixty dissidents were released in exchange for 9 'Arafat supporters. However, the resumption of clashes in the Shatila camp have obstructed the simultaneous withdrawal of the fighters of the two warring sides from the positions they recently established around the two camps.

The joint Palestinian committee immediately initiated an investigation to pinpoint the party responsible for the violation of the cease-fire. This committee reiterated the seven Palestinian factions' determination to implement all the points of the agreement without any exception and to end the battles in the Palestinian camps in Beirut through the entrenchment of the cease-fire agreement by force if necessary.

'Atallah 'Atallah on 'Uprising,' King Husayn

JN1605170388 Amman AL-QUDS in Arabic 16 May 88 p 1, 15

[Speech by 'Atallah 'Atallah, identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Za'im, commander in chief of the Corrective Movement within Fatah and the PLO, at a political indoctrination course graduation ceremony—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and sisters, many happy returns of the 'Id. Our celebration today to graduate this class coincides with the blessed and great month of Ramadan, in which was sent down the Koran, as a guide to mankind, and also as clear signs for guidance and judgment between right and wrong. We meet today at the graduation ceremony of our second advanced course of our cadres. These cadres comprise the junior commanders who work and train to pursue the march of good, construction, and liberation of the Palestinian man and land.

This march of liberation seeks to liberate the land and man from two things. The first is to free the man from the Zionist occupation and the Palestinian mind from the erroneous concepts which have weighed heavily on it over many decades with respect to the understanding of nationalism and the methods of national and revolutionary approach of national issues. That's why the march of liberation has taken place to liberate the Palestinian land and free the Palestinian mind and will. It has come to rebuild the Palestinian individual as a responsible human being who acts with logic and has faith in his Arab affiliation. [passage omitted]

The Corrective Movement was only an idea 2 years ago. But now, God be praised, it is an action on the ground, has supporters, and is protected by strong arms. It is no

longer an idea. Many a time, the movement expounded the idea, and many a time some weak people believed that the movement would not last long. Some people said it would not last more than 1 or 2 months. Others said it would last 6 months. People also said that the movement would make no difference. Have you heard today's news? Have you listened to Monte Carlo, which is 'Arafat's mouthpiece and which is a hireling station in the fullest sense of the word? We wonder about the current analyses everywhere.

I call some people liars. These liars, God be praised, have vanished. These people used to come here and tell lies and then go somewhere else and tell lies. I liked His Majesty King Husayn's expression in one of his speeches. He used the term: Doubt casting and divisive efforts. I like this expression very much because every society faces doubt casting and divisive attempts. But, God be praised, I take pride in this movement before the entire world because it is the noblest and the most disciplined, enlightened, and ethical Palestinian organization.

This movement is strong now. It is strong because of you, your doctrine, your brothers, and the faith in our hearts. The movement will continue. We are experiencing a stage fraught with changes imposed by the circumstances of this great cause. The changes are not imposed from outside at all. The sweeping uprising in the occupied homeland has overwhelmed everything in the Palestinian arena and even in the Arab arena. Despite the glorious victories of our Iraqi people in Al-Faw, the uprising overwhelmed the Iraq-Iran war. As we said on the first day of the movement, we are not tools in the hands of others.

We said that the uprising should continue and should be for the entire Palestinian people. Now, it is of the entire Palestinian people, God be praised, and no one can claim it for himself. Everyone who claims it for himself is a spy. It is for every Palestinian. Everybody has a brother, mother, father, or sister there. The revolution is for the entire Palestinian people. It is moving in this direction, God be praised. We also said the PLO should exploit this blessed uprising. Our movement said this on the first day. We voiced our rejection of leaderships being created by Israel. This uprising should be led by the people and the PLO. We maintain that this uprising must not be allowed to go to waste, since we have no need for heroic posturing. Our people have exhibited heroism, generosity, and sacrifice throughout history. We must make capital of the uprising in seeking ways to force the occupation out. If the uprising should fail to achieve this end using all of our potential inside and outside the occupied land we will have returned to the 6-month 1936 general strike. It was the greatest stoppage ever.

Regrettably, however, we failed to use it for political gain and the danger is still with us., Under the circumstances, I therefore say it is natural that this great revolution should be handed over to the PLO and those who are the legitimate Palestinian decisionmakers should receive the windfall. But no one, Arab or non-Arab can take credit for the uprising. It belongs to the Palestinian people. Those in a position of legitimacy within the Palestinian community have been bequeathed it effortlessly and tirelessly. And if they should lose it they will be called to account.

It is surprising that those who lack the decision now say no to the Shultz initiative or any contacts with him. We have tried this pasive approach and I just hope history will not repeat itself. The Royal British Commission was boycotted after 1936 and orders were given to boycott it. When Shultz came to the region no one turned up to meet him and now we go from one country to another in the hope of striking an alliance with this or that party. Now that there is an uprising the gates of the Arab countries are open to you, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. But if the uprising should peter out, God forbid, you know what things will be like. We do have to take advantage of the uprising and see that it is not wasted. It is held in trust with all of us. Now how to take advantage of it?

We were optimistic that this year will see a solution. In my opinion there have been absurd attempts by the Palestinian side to engage in political maneuvers. We have heard talk of an Arab delegation, a joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation, or a joint Egyptian-Palestinian delegation. But we have not heard anyone say an independent Palestinian delegation. If it is going to be a joint delegation, why not with Jordan? We are not saying this out of love for Jordan only but because it is in our national interests as Palestinians to press for a joint delegation with Jordan. Why is that? Because we have yet to have an independent state of our own. Let's recall history.

Resolution No 181 of 1948 allocated to us 46 percent of the Palestinian land. Eighteen percent was lost. Ben-Gurion proclaimed his state at midnight. Of course the partition resolution did not give us just our land but two states: an Arab state and a Hebrew one. The Israeli state was proclaimed and recognized by the world and we were still flailing about worrying about who would take control: Jamal al-Husayni or Al-Haj Amin. That was what the Palestinian disagreement was about: Who will be in charge of the Palestinian state? Will we be ruled by Al-Haj Amin or his cousin Jamal al-Husayni? This is how we lost out. We did nothing until were we left with the West Bank and Gaza or 26 percent. Eighteen percent was lost in the interval between the two truces.

The West Bank was part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and was lost in 1967. This means Jordan has a moral, pan-Arab responsibility. Jordan has got to be involved in the search for a solution. We are still playing hard to get with Jordan. This is empty and nonsensical talk. Indeed it is anti-nationalist and irresponsible. Perhaps Jordan can discard the 18 percent of the Palestinian land that was occupied while under Jordanian control. Jordan is entitled to say in international forums that we want our occupied territory back. No one knows what

Israel's borders are. Can anyone say where Israel's borders are? Israel has not accepted its present borders and to date has no recognizable borders. In other words, Israel is a bottomless well that can swallow any Arab land. If we are prepared to go as part of a joint delegation why not join Jordan? Since its establishment, this movement has been calling for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. We called for a Palestinian flag, entity, and independent national character. We called for two states, two entities, which would be united in one entity. We called for a Palestinian parliament and a Jordanian parliament; a Palestinian government and a Jordanian government. We called for a confederation that would unite the two states into one.

I have repeatedly said that King Husayn can never be an obstacle to this unity. On the contrary, as Palestinians, we consider him a Hashemite and a Hashemite [related to Prophet Muhammad's family] king. We the Palestinians are proud that the grandson of Husayn ibn 'Ali, the leader of the Arab revolution, should head this unity. With our Jordanian brothers, there will be a state opposite a state, a people opposite a people, and a government opposite a government. We later will unite in one state, one parliament. I think those who heard King Husayn's recent speeches have realized that Jordan does not oppose this view at all.

On the contrary, this was one of the alternatives presented by Jordan. The king proposed 1) a merger, which he said was and still is incomplete, 2) a confederation, or 3) an independent Palestinian state. And since Jordan is an independent state, we do not want this because this is against Arab unity. We want to liberate Palestine and build Arab unity. Any inch which we regain of Palestine will be a step on the road to liberation. Any union with any Arab state will be a step toward unity. First we begin with Jordan, then, God willing, with Syria to realize the Greater Syria unity, and then to the Arab Maghreb states. These are our national hopes and aspirations. We are proud of these aspirations.

There are meetings held and statements issued here and there. An Arab summit will probably be held in Algiers early next month. On behalf of every Palestinian and every free Arab, I appeal to the Arab heads of state — and this movement has always been frank—and tell them: If you are unable to take anything from Israel, do not take what is left of hope from this Palestinian-Jordanian people, do not destroy their hopes for Arab unity. That is all I hope for. We do not want to pounce on Arab unity because we were impotent in facing Israel. We do not want to divide ourselves under the banner of national independence.

We support two united states, a Jordanian state and a Palestinian state. We have had our experiments with Arab summits, which did not realize for us, the Palestinians, any of our aims. I hope this summit will be better than the previous ones.

I wish you success and thank your teachers and instructors who exerted their efforts in the field of ideological mobilization. I also thank other brothers in other departments who helped our brothers in the Ideological Mobilization Department. God willing, the next course will be held immediately after 'Id al-Fitr [the end of Ramadan]. Thank you. I wish our people and nation success.

'Uprising' Leadership Issues 'Call No 17'

JN2205201088 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1758 GMT 22 May 88

["Call No 17" issued by the "Unified National Leadership of the Palestinian Uprising" on 21 May—place not given]

[Text] Call, call, call. No voice can rise above the voice of the uprising. No voice can rise above the voice of the Palestinian people, the people of the PLO.

Call No 17, call on the passage of 40 days since the assassination of leader and instructor Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] issued by the PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied territory.

O masses of our heroic people, O makers of the glories of the continuous uprising through dear and great sacrifices month after month, week after week, and day after day, O vigilant people, whose bright eyes show every pride. For the sake of freedom and independence you are writing with blood our contemporary history and you affirm our independent Palestinian state despite the most difficult obstacles and the fierceness, brutality, and crimes of the occupation.

O heroes of the stones, the firebombs, and the burning tires, directed at the enemy occupiers and the Zionist usurpers and constituting a bright light for all of us in our dear homeland. It is our only homeland and we will never accept any alternative to it regardless of how much the forgers are forging and how much the losers repeat their attempts to obliterate our national rights, foremost of which is our right to self-determination on our national soil in Palestine under the PLO, our sole legitimate representative. Its glorious 24th anniversary falls on 28 May. It was established in 1964 in our holy Jerusalem, the third holiest shrine, which will continue to exist despite the ordeals.

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre near it will also continue to exist and the Church of Nativity and the place from where Arab Prophet Muhammad ascended to the throne are also there. On its anniversary, the PLO, our sole legitimate representative, has achieved our national unity after division, estrangement, and a lengthy absence of our independent national identity.

O our heroic revolutionaries, O grandsons of 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam, our people, who do not get bored or tired: The enemies have believed that our energies are limited and that the successive months of continued demonstrations and

bloodshed on the soil of the homeland, starvation, and thirst will destroy our will and wear us down. But the realities in your steadfastness, O our great people, are that your energy is not limited and your will cannot be destroyed because it is the energy of revolution and the will of freedom and inevitable independence, no matter how much darkness prevails and how much the Zionist enemy uses military force against us, how much it tries many ways to destroy our morale, and how much it imposes a news blackout inside and outside the homeland.

All these attempts have failed with Israel itself coming under siege in every place. Your great uprising has become a magnificent national example for all the peoples of the world, putting hope and optimism on the lips of the strugglers and reassuring all the sufferers on earth of the inevitabhility of triumph and the defeat of all the despots and darkness.

O our revolutionaries, our youth, and our women and children: [Words indistinct]. O comrades, brothers, and sons of the leader, the martyr, the symbol Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. As we approach the 40th day since he was murdered, the criminal killers thought that by assassinating him they could assassinate the uprising on 16 April 1988. They have been disappointed. The uprising persists and will carry on until victory and the establishment of our independent state.

Abu Jihad has not died. How could he have died if you are his heirs, brothers, and sons who are continuing on the road of martyrdom, dignity, relentless revolution, dear sacrifice, courageous defiance of our Zionist, occupying settler, ugly enemy, and beloved Palestine until the sun rises bright in all the eyes and hearts. O our great, striving people—the people of the uprising, which woke the whole world to our inalienable, firm rights, the uprising which is continuing with stones and Molotov cocktails, burning tires, solid, unconquerable strikes, blood, and the processions of martyrs and the fortitude shown by our kinfolk who have been torn away from their children and husbands in detention.

This uprising, which is standing up to the law of numbering the identity cards in the Gaza Strip now and in the West Bank later, demonstrates that our only identity is the Palestinian identity. This uprising, which believes that the pursuit of science and education is ours by a right that nothing can confiscate, emphasizes your glorious victory in returning to school, so we will be under our one slogan: As we learn [words indistinct] in participating in the militant march of our people [words indistinct] education [words indistinct] capable to face the policies of [word indsitinct] and the Zionist policies of striking at our culture and our scientific and academic [word indistinct].

The Israeli Government and its repressive arm, Yitzhak Rabin, the war [as heard] minister, sent all their military forces, which are armed with weapons of death and destruction, decided to bow to the will of our legitimate right to pursue education from the kindergartens to the universities. In this regard, Israel faced international [passage indistinct] against science and learning in our occupied land, turned our schools, universities, and kindergartens into military barracks and detention centers for our revolutionaries and heroes in a fascist attempt to [word indistinct] our young generations and suppress our culture and creeds and to [word indistinct] our social character.

O our sacrificing people who are rising against all forms of ignorance, injustice, and occupation: Your continuous uprising over a full 6-month period will now become the clearest, greatest, and most important issue on the negotiating table between the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in their super summit in Moscow from 29 May to 2 June. As much as the friendly Soviet Union is clear (?to) the Arab people in its stand that supports our national rights (?and) our sole legitimate representative, the PLO, under Brother Yasir 'Arafat's leadership, the U.S. Administration continues its stubbornness and straying from the right way in its stand, which is hostile to our rights and totally biased toward Israel.

Your continuous uprising have emphasized to this super summit that the rights of our entire Palestinian people, inside and abroad, cannot possibly be obliterated or besieged by a plan such as that of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who will soon return to the region, but will depart it emptyhanded and disappointed, as he did in his three previous tours.

We salute the Soviet Union for all its honorable stands. We stress that this summit will further increase the isolation of the United States, which will eventually be forced to understand the facts before it is too late. These are the facts of a just and comprehensive peace through an international conference with the participation of all involved parties, including the PLO on an equal footing and under the supervision of the United Nations.

O our great people: The Unified National Leadership, being with you, for you, and through you, stresses (?the following:)

1. Ignoring the rumors that the organs of the Zionist enemy's intellegence are trying to spread.

2. Consolidating the commercial strike according to what originally has been decided; namely, from 0900 to 1200. We stress our great appreciation for all our honorable merchants, who are all committed to this strike despite the fierce oppression.

3. Reiterating the demand—and this is a firm, final demand—that all the appointed municipal councils which have not resigned yet, the supervisors working in the civil administration departments, and policemen

working in the West Bank and Gaza should tender their resignation. We have issued our warning and are not responsible for the consequences.

4. Emphasizing the need to refrain from paying all forms of taxes and stop working in the Zionist enemy settlements. Your Unified Leadership calls for the following:

1. Observing 22 May 1988 as the day of rationalization in household economy, austerity measures, and confining purchases to basic household needs.

2. Observing 23 May 1988 as the day of returning to schools, helping students, and distributing textbooks, notebooks, and stationery among the students [words indistinct] the Palestinian national products and boycotting all Zionist products in all their forms.

4. [Number as heard] Observing 25 May 1988, the passage of 40 days since the martyrdom of leader and teacher Abu Jihad, as a day of comprehensive strike.

5. Observing 26 May 1988 as a day of visits to the wounded, families of martyrs, detainees, and deportees.

6. Observing 27 May 1988 as a day of visits to villages to participate in cooperative agricultural work and to go out in mass demonstrations [words indistinct].

7. Observing 28 May 1988 as the anniversary of establishing the PLO and hoisting the Palestinian flag everywhere.

8. Observing 29 May 1988 as a day of violent demonstrations and [word indistinct] confrontation with the occupation forces and the herds of settlers.

9. Observing 30 May 1988 as a day of visiting the camps in solidarity with their inhabitants and to lend them material and moral support.

10. Obsesrving 31 May 1988 as a day of popular anger and confrontation with the occupied forces and herds of settlers.

O sons of our great people. Your uprising is continuing, a beacon giving its glorious and proud light to the whole world. With your chaste blood, the uprising affirms that our victory is undoubtedly coming, that your strong arms, which are destroying the basis of the Zionist occupation, are the same arms which will build the independent Palestinian state under the PLO leadership in our Palestinian homeland and with Jerusalem as its capital. We will triumph, we will triumph, (? we will triumph).

Signed: The PLO, the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising in the occupied territories, 21 May 1988.

Egypt

Mubarak Departs on Official Visit to YAR

NC2205092688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0922 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation left Cairo for Sanaa before noon today on an official 3-day visit to the YAR at the invitation of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. This is the first visit by an Egyptian president to Sanaa in 24 years.

Sudan

Bomb Suspects Claim To Belong to Abu Nidal Group

NC2205132888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 May (MENA)—The Sudanese paper AL-USBU' has published the details of the confessions made by the defendants in the blasts that took place in the Acropol Hotel and the British Club in Khartoum last Sunday.

In its issue today the paper reports that the three defendants hold Lebanese passports issued in Beirut and had obtained entry visas to Sudan from the Sudanese Embassy in Damascus. The paper adds that during the interrogations the defendants said they had entered Sudan to attack U.S. and British interests in the country on 15 May, the anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine.

According to the paper, the defendants told their interrogators that they belong to the Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] group and had entered Sudan in January and February, staying in the Khartoum Meridien until they found a residence in Khartoum North. The perpetrators said that the plan to blow up the dining hall in the Acropol Hotel had been carried out using highly explosive material. They stated that they attacked the British Club at the same time using machineguns, pistols, and four hand grenades.

In another development, Abu Raja'i, PLO bureau chief in Khartoum, told the Sudanese paper AL-NAHAR today that neither Palestine nor the Palestinians had anything to do with the incidents in Khartoum on 15 May. He noted that the Palestinian revolution's rifles are aimed at Israel in the occupied territories.

Al-Mirghani Receives Tanzania's Nyerere

LD2205202588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1727 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 22 (SUNA)—Chairman of the Council of State Ahmad al-Mirghani and members of the Council received here Sunday former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere who arrived here yesterday in the context of a tour of a number of Third World countries to explain the activities of the South-South Committee. The encounter has reviewed the progress of efforts being conducted by Nyerere to realize better cooperation between the Third World countries in the fields of development.

Al-Mirghani To Attend 7 Jun Arab Summit

LD2205211188 Khartoum SUNA in English 1714 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 22, SUNA—Chairman of the State Council, Ahmad al-Mirghani, will lead Sudan's delegation to the extra-ordinary Arab summit scheduled to convene in Algiers on June 7 to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

Meanwhile an Algerian special envoy conveyed Sunday a message to the State Council from President Chadli Bendjedid.

Algerian National Liberation Front Politburo member, Boualem Benhamouda said in a statement after a meeting with Al-Mirghani and the State Council members that President Bendjedid had asked the State Council in his message to forward proposals and view points to bring success to the summit.

Dr. Benhamouda said all Arab states had agreed to participate in the summit, something which could give the conference a momentum to come up with important resolutions.

Other factors which could participate in rendering the summit a success, Dr. Benhamouda said, are the reconciliation between Syria and the PLO, and the rapprochement between Algeria and Morocco, and the Democratic Republic of Yemen and the Arab Republic of Yemen.

Dr. Benhamouda concluded that there is an Arab consensus over the urgency of coming up with positive resolutions for the interest of the Palestinian cause and the closing up of Arab ranks to face up the Zionist challenges.

Egypt Mediating Between Government, Rebels

JN2205122388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1048 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, May 22 (SUNA)—The Egyptian Government has started, through various channels, intensive contacts with rebels leader John Garang to reach an agreement between the government and the so-called Sudan's Peoples Liberation Army "SPLA", the daily AL-AYYAM today said.

The newspaper pointed out that Egypt is intending to arrange a meetng next week between Premier Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi who will participate in OAU meeting and the rebels leader John Garang to stop the civil war.

Spokesman Denies Rebel Siege of Tawarit

JN2205112588 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Khartoum, 22 May (SUNA) — The official spokesman for the Armed Forces denied recent reports that rebels are besieging the city of Tawarit in the Equatoria Region. He affirmed that the situation there is calm and that the Army is in total control of all areas.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Receives PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

LD2105085588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning at the Republican Palace in Carthage met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, Interior Minister Habib Ammar, and the PLO representative in Tunis, Hikmat Balawi.

Yasir 'Arafat stated that he was pleased to meet with his excellency the president. He informed His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Palestinian situation in all its aspects, especially escalation of the blessed uprising in the occupied territories and the responsibilities which stem from that at all levels—Palestinian, Arab, and international—and the good preparation and full coordination at the Palestinian, Tunisian, and Arab levels for the forthcoming Arab summit in Algiers in order to bolster the escalation of the uprising of our people in the occupied territories.

'Arafat also affirmed to his excellency the president the support and backing for the escalation of the popular uprising of the Palestinian people, adding they have both agreed to raise the important and central Arab issues, including the Gulf war, the Arab situation, and Arab solidarity. 'Arafat said he could proudly say his views and the views of his excellency the president were totally identical on all these issues.

Yasir 'Arafat also pointed out that he conveyed to his excellency the president the thanks of the Palestinian people and mujahidin for the fraternal, principled, and committed stance taken by Tunisia—president, government, and people—alongside their brothers, the Palestinian mujahidin. He said that this affectionate stance and this fraternal and revolutionary warmth indicate sincerity and commitment of attitude—a pan-Arab attitude which will push forward a great deal our people's struggle so we can both pray, God willing, in Jerusalem.

Libya's Colonel al-Qadhdhafi Arrives for Visit

'Tumultuous Welcome'

LD2205170888 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Jarbah, Al-Ma' [May] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution arrived in Jarbah at 1:30 pm on a visit to sisterly Tunisia.

The leader of the revolution was given a tumultuous welcome on his arrival in Jarbah where President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali spearheaded the party welcoming him and embraced him in an Arab warm fraternal manner.

Taking part in the welcoming ceremony were Hedi Baccouche, the Tunisian prime minister, members of the party and government and officials in sisterly Tunisia.

The leader of the revolution was given a massive popular welcome as he arrived in Jarbah where the popular masses gathered since early morning to receive and welcome the leader in the city where popular parties were held echoing chants expressing pride in meeting with the brother leader, the Arab unity and the unity of destiny of our Arab nation

The leader of the revolution was received on his way to Jarbah with massive popular parties as the Arab people in Tunisia went out this morning to welcome him along the road from Ras Djedir [name as received] to the city of Jarbah and parties were held at every each [as received] area the leader crossed. The welcoming ceremonies reached their climax at the cities of Gardan and Djardjis [name as received] where the popular masses gave the leader of the revolution a tumultuous welcome chanting long live the leader and the Arab unity. The masses expressed their pride in meeting the leader and the united hope for the future of the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

Furthermore, the popular masses of the two cities presented bouquets of flowers to the leader of the revolution and run to shake his hand as the leader found it difficult to walk his way through because of the scores of the people around him while women echoed the traditional Arab sound of happiness (zagharid) from balconies and house roofs.

The leader of the revolution arrived at Ras Djedir at 11:20 am where he was welcomed by Habib Ammar, the Tunisian minister of the interior, Mahmoud Mestiri, the minister of foreign affairs. Also taking part in the welcoming ceremony there were the mayor of Benkardan [name as received] and a number of cadres of the wilayat [administrative division] of Madnin.

At Ras Djedir the leader was given a tremendous welcome by the Arab masses in Tunisia expressing the happiness of the people in meeting the leader where a little girl presented a bouquet of flowers to the leader to celebrate and rejoice this historical meeting which embody the hopes and aspirations of the one Arab people in the two sisterly countries.

Press Statement Issued

LD2205230988 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The Tunisian-Libyan talks which were held yesterday in Jarbah between His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and members of the Tunisian and Libyan delegations, were crowned by a press statement. The text follows:

At the invitation of the president of the Republic of Tunisia, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1 September Revolution, paid a visit to the Tunisian Republic on Sunday, 22 May 1988, where a working and consultative meeting was held on the island of Jarbah. This confirms the spirit of fraternity, trust, and understanding which prevails in relations between the two fraternal countries in the era of 7 November.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi registered with great satisfaction the growth of bilateral cooperation and the positive development of Maghrebian relations, particuarly after the resumption of diplomatic relations between Algeria and Morocco. This provides practical reasons for the establishment of a Maghrebian edifice without borders in which the Maghrebian sides can participate in realizing all-embracing Arab unity.

Reinforcing the fraternal relations and existing cooperation between the two countries, they stressed the following:

1. Ensuring the freedom of movement of people by a unified identity card to be prepared by a joint committee.

2. Ensuring the unrestricted movement of goods and commodities of national origin between the two countries.

3. Ensuring freedom of residence, work, and possession for the citizens of either country in the other country.

4. Working toward implementing the following integrated projects:

a. Linking the electricity network.

b. Expanding the telephone network.

c. The Ras Djedir-Sfax highway.

d. The oil pipeline between Al-Zawiyah refinery and Janjis.

5. Taking part in the implementation and running of pilot economic and development projects; the Tripoli hospital, the Al-Jabal al-Akhdar agricultural project, and the iron and steel complex in Misrate.

6. Stressing what has been agreed with regard to the continental shelf, provided that final agreement on the subject is reached during the visit of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the Jamahiriyah during the coming days.

7. Strengthening cooperation in the fields of information, production, and joint relay.

The two sides affirm their continuing and untiring work to undertake a pioneering action, to realize an advanced form of Arab Maghreb unity, and to invite all Maghrebian parties to improve existing cooperation with the aim of creating a common action.

Bahrain

Algerian Minister Arrives in Bahrain 21 May

JN2105131188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1210 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Manama, 21 May (WAKH)—Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, FLN Political Bureau member and Algerian minister of state for the presidency, arrived in Manama from Kuwait at noon today on a 2-day visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the Algerian minister will convey a message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain.

The Algerian minister was welcomed upon arrival by Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, labor and social affairs minister. The minister's visit is part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

Amir Receives Algerian Envoy

JN2205091188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0745 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Manama, 22 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, has received a written message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid containing an invitation to his highness the amir to attend the emergency Arab summit due to be held in the Algerian capital on 7 June.

Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, FLN Political Bureau member and Algerian minister of state for the Presidency, conveyed the message during a meeting with his highness the Bahraini amir this morning. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, Labor and Social Affairs Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman ibn Muhammad Al Khalifah, and Algerian Ambassador to Bahrain Muhandao Sa'id Bal'id.

The Algerian envoy arrived in Manama yesterday as part of a current tour of the region's states.

Envoy Departs for Doha

JN2205101088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Manama, 22 May (WAKH)—Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, FLN Political Bureau member and Algerian minister of state for the presidency, and the delegation accompanying him left Manama for Doha today following a 2-day visit to Bahrain as part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

In a predeparture statement, the Algerian minister said he conveyed a written message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, containing an invitation To his highness the amir to attend the emergency Arab summit due to be held in Algiers on 7 June.

Abdelghani also paid tribute to the responsiveness and understanding demonstrated by his highness the amir of the State of Bahrain, especially with regard to the emergency Arab summit and the topics discussed. He added that discussions centered on the current developments in the Arab arena and issues of concern to the Arab nation.

Kuwait

Amir Receives Message From Algerian Envoy

LD2105115988 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] His highness the amir at 1100 today received Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, minister of state for the Presidency, of the fraternal democratic and popular Republic of Algeria, who conveyed to his highness, may God protect him, a message from his brother, His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, which contained an invitation to his highness to attend the Arab emergency summit conference scheduled to be held in June.

The meeting was attended by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Algerian ambassador to the State of Kuwait.

Algerian Envoy Departs

LD2105145688 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1359 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Kuwait, May 21 (KUNA)—Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Algerian minister of state for the Presidency, left here Saturday concluding a brief visit to Kuwait during which he conveyed a message to his highness the amir from President Chadli Bendjedid.

The message contained an invitation to his highness the amir to attend the extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Algiers in June.

The Algerian official was seen off by Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, state minister for foreign affairs, and Al-Hasnaoui Khaldi, Algerian ambassador to Kuwait.

Oman

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives, Holds Talks

JN2205160188 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Official talks opened at the Ministry of Petroleum and Minerals this afternoon between an Omani delegation led by His Excellency Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari, petroleum and minerals minister, and an Iranian delegation led by Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who arrived in the country earlier today.

During the talks, the delegations reviewed the current situation and developments in the oil markets. They also discussed the results of the meetings held recently in Vienna between the OPEC and non-OPEC states with the aim of reaching an agreement on restabilizing oil prices. The Sultanate participated in these meetings through a delegation led by His Excellency Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari.

Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh and the accompanying delegation arrived in the country at noon today on an official (?2-day) visit to the Sultanate. In an arrival statement to the OMAN NEWS AGENCY, the Iranian petroleum minister emphasized the fraternal ties between the Sultanate and Iran. He lauded the Sultanate's role in stabilizing the world oil market despite the fact that the Sultanate is not an OPEC member. He pointed out that his country had exerted great efforts in the past 2 years to arrive at a formula for understanding, cooperation, and joint action with non-OPEC states to stabilize the oil market.

The Iranian minister said his country supports a proposal presented by the non-OPEC states at the recent Vienna meeting that provides for reducing their oil production in return for the OPEC states reducing their production quotas. This may constitute a start for strong cooperation between the non-OPEC and OPEC states.

Concluding his statement, he said that after his visit to the Sultanate he will pay a similar visit to the UAE, which will be followed by a visit to Indonesia.

His excellency was received upon arrival by His Excellency Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari, petroleum and minerals minister, and the Iranian charge d'affaires in the Sultanate.

PDRY

Soviet Military Delegation Arrives on Visit

EA1905211188 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 May 88

[Text] A Soviet military delegation led by Comrade Major-General (Yuriy Sergeyevich Bulgakov) arrived in Aden this evening for a working visit to the PDRY that will last several days. The visit comes within the framework of consolidating and strengthening the relations between the armies of the two friendly countries.

The delegation was received on arrival by Colonel Muhammad Haytham Qasim, member of the Central Committee and deputy chief of the General Staff, and by a number of commanders of the Armed Forces.

Qatar

Amir Receives Algerian Envoy, Summit Invitation

JN2205122188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Doha, 22 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a written message from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid containing an invitation to his highness the amir to attend the extraordinary Arab summit due to be held in Algiers on 7 June.

The message was conveyed by Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, FLN Political Bureau member, Algerian minister of state for the Presidency, and envoy of the Algerian president, during a meeting with the Qatari amir today.

The Algerian minister arrived in Doha from Manama earlier today within the framework of his current tour of the region's states during which he will convey similar messages to the leaders of these states.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Nayif on Talks With Egyptian President

LD2205112188 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1008 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, has pointed out that he conveyed a verbal message to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques. His royal highness also conveyed to the president the greetings of King Fahd and his crown prince.

In a press statement after his audience with the Egyptian president, his royal highness said that the message concerns bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, whether bilateral, Arab, Islamic, or international.

His royal highness added: I found complete understanding with the president; our views were identical for the benefit of our Arab nation. His royal highness announced that President Mubarak gave him a verbal message to deliver to the custodian of the two holy mosques, and pointed out that the custodian of the two holy mosques will soon visit Egypt. The date of the visit will be determined by agreement between the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Mubarak. His royal highness expressed his gratitude to the Egyptian president for granting this opportunity to meet.

As for the Egyptian president's comments on the Kingdom's decision to sever its relations with Iran, Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said that Egypt has already announced its position on this matter and that the Egyptian president reiterated that position.

His royal highness stressed the commitment of the Kingdom to secure the safety and confidence of the pilgrims, and said: I have reassured the Egyptian president that the Kingdom has adopted all the necessary precautions and that what was done by the Iranians last year will not, God willing, be repeated. I also assured him that the security of the holy mosques and of the pilgrims are in trustworthy hands which are able, God willing, to achieve complete security.

On the return of Egypt to the Arab Interior Ministers Council and other Arab security organizations, his royal highness said that this matter was not presented by the brothers in Egypt and was not studied. His royal highness added: We hope to find Egypt occupying its place in the Arab world.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Oil Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2305091188 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0840 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 May (WAKH)—Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh arrived in Abu Dhabi this morning on a 2-day visit to the UAE. UAE Oil Minister Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah received the Iranian minister upon arrival.

Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said his visit to the UAE comes to exchange viewpoints with UAE officials on the issues to be discussed at the coming OPEC conference to be held in Vienna in June. In a statement to WAM, the Iranian minister added that he will hold consultations with Dr al-'Utaybah. He added: We hope that through these consultations we will reach full agreement, particularly since we are on the threshold of a very important OPEC meeting.

President Receives Aqazadeh

JN2305123888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1155 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 23 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with developments in the oil market. Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh conveyed the message when his excellency the UAE president received the Iranian minister at noon today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Tahnun ibn Muhammad, representative of the Abu Dhabi ruler in the eastern region and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company; and Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources.

Algerian Envoy Arrives 23 May With Message

JN2305130588 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 23 May (WAKH)—Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, envoy of the Algerian president and minister of state for the Presidency, arrived in Abu Dhabi from Doha this morning on a visit to the UAE as part of his current tour of a number of regional states.

The Algerian envoy carries a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid inviting his highness to attend the extraordinary Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Algiers on 7 June.

Yemen Arab Republic

Egyptian President Arrives in Sanaa 22 May

JN2205174788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 88

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt arrived in Sanaa at 1500 today on a visit to our country lasting several days in response to an invitation from his brother, Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress. The great guest was accorded a large official and popular reception. Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih led those who received him at Sanaa International Airport. [passage omitted]

Following a brief rest at the VIP lounge in the airport, the two leaders headed for the presidential palace in an official motorcade, which made its way amid crowds of citizens who stood on both sides of the road to salute the great guest.

The delegation accompanying His Excellency President Husni Mubarak on this visit comprises Brother Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Muhammad 'Atiyah, a professor at the Faculty of Medicine; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the president's office for political affairs and first under secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Dr Zakariyah 'Aju, secretary general of the Presidency; Dr Jamal al-Din 'Abd al-'Aziz, president's secretary; and Dr Mustafa al-Faqi, president's secretary for information and followup.

The Egyptian president is also accompanied by a large media delegation comprising chief editors of Egyptian newspapers and magazines as well as the information organization, MENA news agency, and radio and television stations' correspondents.

Salih, Mubarak Speak

JN2305070788 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] At 2000 yesterday, the official round of talks was held between our country and the Arab Republic of Egypt cochaired by brother leaders Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress; and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the fraternal Arab Republic of Egypt.

At the beginning of the meeting, President Salih delivered a speech in which he welcomed President Mubarak and the accompanying delegation. He said: In my own name and on behalf of the YAR Government and people, I welcome you to your second homeland, Yemen.

The president added: We are happy with these sisterly visits which will allow us all to exchange opinions on issues that concern our countries and our Yemeni and Egyptian revolutions. He affirmed that this visit will give us the opportunity to discuss the continuously existing, developing, and progressing fraternal bilateral relations.

He added that these relations continued in the cultural, artistic, and economic fields because there are historical ties between our countries and people as well as special relations that are different from the other special relations among states.

The brother leader said: These relations are special because they were baptized by blood—the blood of the Egyptian people—in defense of the glorious 26 September revolution with their brothers the Yemeni people. Martyrs fell on the peaks of all mountains and in all plains. He affirmed that this asset and this debt will not be forgotten. He added: The Egyptian people, who defended the Yemeni revolution and the republican regime and contributed generously, are today effectively contributing in support of development plans.

The brother president said: In the past, Egypt's Army defended the revolution against its enemies. Today, another Egyptian Army is building the Yemeni revolution through achieving educational progress and contributing to the economic and artistic institutions. This building, which has been continuing for 26 years, will remain in the heart of all Yemenis as thanks to the Egyptian people.

The brother president affirmed that we highly appreciate the cooperation and contacts between the two fraternal countries, particularly since His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak assumed power in Egypt. Relations have developed continuously, the president said. Salih added: Although we met today only our hearts embraced before. These contacts were reflected positively on our Yemeni and Egyptian countries because Yemeni-Egyptian relations are distinguished and special.

Addressing President Mubarak, President Salih said: Your visit to your second homeland will give us the opportunity to coordinate on the bilateral, pan-Arab, Islamic, and international levels. Undoubtedly, our countries' viewpoints on most things are identical.

Concluding his speech, the brother leader said: Brother president, allow me to welcome you again to your second homeland, the YAR, and to express my great appreciation for the friendship that links me with His Excellency Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, one of the Egyptian Army's heroes, who personally took part in defending the September revolution. He will always remain a subject of pride and dignity in the hearts of the Yemeni people.

President Husni Mubarak delivered a speech in which he said: I thank the brother president for the speech which leaves a very good impression upon me. I thank the brother president and the people of Yemen for their warm welcome and hospitality which has made me truly feel that I am in my second country and that I am sitting down with brothers whom I have known for years and years.

President Mubarak added: I am happy to be in fraternal Yemen with which we have a special relationship, the likes of which seldom exists between two states in today's world. There are no sensitivities or complexes with regard to our cooperation in many fields. Egypt is open, Mr President, to all the requests of the fraternal Yemeni people and we will never hesitate to render assistance.

President Mubarak said: We and you have a similar history. We dealt with each other frequently. I have seen Yemen today and the fact is I am dazzled. I did not think development in Yemen had reached such an extent during the administration of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. One is proud that such progress has been achieved during the administration of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, a national Arab leader who is balanced in his thinking and policy, sincere in his friendship, and zealous in his eagerness to safeguard the interests of his Arab and Muslim nation. I congratulate him today—for today coincides with the 5th anniversary of his reelection—on my own behalf and on behalf of the Egyptian people.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak continued: I bow in admiration for the great efforts made both in the construction and development fields. I believe our information media have conveyed and will convey this good image of fraternal Yemen under the leadership of this good, zealous, sincere, and patriotic man.

In conclusion President Husni Mubarak said: Once again I reiterate my thanks and appreciation to you, Mr President, and to all the brothers. I do not at all feel that I am a stranger here. We had talked on the telephone and the tone of the conversation was as though we have been friends for a long time. I am greatly honored and happy

to meet with you, brother president. I am very happy to see such speedy development in this country, for we are interested in its welfare. Once again I congratulate you and thank you and the fraternal Yemeni people.

During the talks they reviewed the fraternal relations between the two peoples and the relations of destiny between the immortal 26 September and 23 July revolutions and ways of strengthening and developing the firm relations between the two fraternal countries in all fields of joint cooperation. They discussed Arab issues and the Arab situation, foremost among which are developments in the Palestine question in light of the escalation of the sweeping popular revolution by the masses of the Palestinian people against the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine, and the challenges facing our Arab nation. They also discussed regional, Muslim, and international issues of interest to the two fraternal countries and the Arab and Muslim nation, particularly the Iraq-Iran war.

On the Yemeni side the talks were attended by 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee of the General People's Congress; 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister for domestic affairs and head of escort mission; Hasan Ahmad al-Lawzi, minister of culture and information and member of the Standing Committee; 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, director of the Presidential Office and member of the Standing Committee; Ahmad Muhammad al-Radi, secretary of the Presidential Office; Muhammad Salih al-Khalidi, the president's secretary and member of the People's Constitutent Assembly; and Mutahhar Muhammad Mutahhar; charge d'affaires at our country's embassy in Cairo.

On the Egyptian side the talks were attended by the members of the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak and the ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt in Sanaa.

President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the Arab Republic of Egypt held a closed meeting last night. They discussed Arab, Islamic, and international issues of interest to the two fraternal peoples and the Yemeni and Egyptian revolutions.

Al-Baz Comments on Meeting

NC2305073388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 22 May 88

[Excerpts] Sanaa, 22 May (MENA)—Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has stated that the warm welcome accorded President Husni Mubarak, his meeting with his brother YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, and their 2-hour talks are indications of the deep ties that link the two countries. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz said that the two leaders discussed important pan-Arab issues, Middle East issues, in light of the uprising of the Palestinian people living under occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, and the active international efforts to resume a comprehensive peace process through the convening of an international conference.

Al-Baz noted that both leaders made a comprehensive assessment of future possibilities. They also discussed the Iran-Iraq war and expressed their hope for an end to this war and for success in the efforts of the United Nations secretary general. They discussed the situation in Lebanon in light of the repeated Israeli attacks and the ongoing fighting in Beirut between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

Al-Baz said that Presidents Mubarak and Salih debated important Islamic and African issues, noting that both countries' stands and views on Arab issues were almost identical. He said this meeting will greatly boost Egyptian-YAR cooperation and distinguished relations. Mubarak extended an invitation to his brother YAR President Salih to visit his second homeland, Egypt. President Salih promised to visit as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

Salih, Mubarak Resume Talks

JN2305124688 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 May 88

[Excerpt] The two brother leaders—Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of the sisterly Republic of Egypt—resumed their brotherly talks, holding a closed session at the presidency at noon today. They resumed their discussion of the issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Algerian Envoy Arrives With Summit Invitation

JN2105142188 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] This afternoon, Brother Boualem Benhamouda, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau, head of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, and envoy of President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived in Sanaa on a 2-day visit to our country.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Boualem said he is carrying a letter from President Chadli Bendjedid to President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih inviting him to the emergency Arab summit, set for 7 June 1988 in Algeria to look into ways to support the overwhelming popular revolution in the occupied Arab land and face Zionist challenges.

On hand to welcome him at Sanaa International Airport were Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, as well as the Algerian ambassador in Sanaa.

President Receives Invitation

JN2105182088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] This evening, Brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, the president, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Brother Boualem Benhamouda, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau, head of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, and envoy of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. Bendjedid invited him to the emergency Arab summit, set for 7 June 1988 in Algiers to look into ways to support the overwhelming popular revolution in the occupied Arab land.

Present at the meeting were Brothers Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister and Standing Committee member; and the Algerian ambassador in Sanaa.

Algerian Official Departs

JN2205135988 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Brother Boualem Benhamouda, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau, head of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, and envoy of Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, left Sanaa this morning following a 1-day visit to our country. During the visit, he conveyed a message to Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid inviting him to attend an extraordinary Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in the Algerian capital on 7 June.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, the Algerian envoy explained that he and the brother president discussed the extraordinary conference, which will be devoted to discussing ways to support the popular revolution in the occupied territories. He said the brother president presented to him useful ideas and opinions that will render this conference a success. They also discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the Arab Maghreb, and its peoples' aspirations for building the Great Arab Maghreb.

The Algerian official pointed out that he extended to the brother president his country's congratulations on signing Sanaa's unionist agreement between leaders of the two parts of Yemen. He expressed the Algerian leadership's satisfaction with the policy chosen by the leaders of both parts of Yemen to resolve issues by peaceful means and constructive dialogue. He asserted this will serve the interests of both parts of Yemen in favor of the unification of Arab ranks.

He was seen off by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; a representative from the Presidential Protocol Department; and Brother Mohamed Sabbagh, Algerian ambassador and dean of the diplomatic corps in Sanaa.

Deputy Prime Minister Returns From USSR Visit

JN2205140588 Sanaa Daomestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Brother Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, minister of development, head of the Central Planning Office, and member of the Standing Committee, and the accompanying delegation returned to Sanaa from Moscow today following an official week-long visit to the USSR.

In a statement to SABA' news agency, Al-'Attar explained that during the visit he conveyed a message from Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, to the USSR leadership. He also held talks with Soviet officials dealing with bilateral relations in various fields, including the organizational field. Talks were held between representatives of the General People's Congress and the CPSU.

Vernon Walters Arrives in Baghdad 21 May

JN2105172688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, arrived here this evening on a visit to last several days.

In a statement to an INA correspondent, Walters said: My visit to Iraq is aimed at discussing UN topics and issues related to ending the Iraq-Iran war. He added that he will also discuss the Middle East situation and the Palestine question during the visit.

Concluding his statement, Walters voiced his pleasure over the materialization of this visit during which he will hold talks with Iraqi officials on enhancing and strengthening bilateral ties.

Walters was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Wisam al-Zahawi, a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and the U.S. charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Tariq 'Aziz Meets Walters

JN2105173188 Baghdad INA in English 1715 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 21, INA—Iraq Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz met here tonight with the visiting U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Vernon Walters.

The meeting dealt with bilateral relations between Iraq and the United States and the ongoing deliberations at the U.N. Security Council on the implementation of the Security Council Resolution No. 598 on ending the Iraq-Iran war.

On his arrival here this evening, Gen. Walters said his talks in Baghdad will cover topics relating to the Iraq-Iran war, Middle East developments including the Palestine cause and means to strengthen U.S.-Iraqi relations.

Hammadi, Walters Confer

JN2205084188 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and speaker of the National Assembly, met here today with General Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative to the Untied Nations.

During the meeting which was attended by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad, they reviewed bilateral parliamentary relations, the developments of the Iraq-Iran war, and ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the war.

Vernon Walters arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit to Iraq as part of a tour of a number of the region's states.

Walters Ends Visit

JN2205132088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—Ambassador Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations, ended his 1-day visit to Iraq this afternoon. Before departing, Walters told reporters at the Saddam International Airport that the Iraqi Government's position has been clear and frank on all the issues he discussed with Iraqi officials.

Walters added that his talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, dealt with the Iraq-Iran war, the Palestine question, and bilateral relations. He stressed that the United States is trying to move to the second stage of Resolution No 598 to impose sanctions against the side rejecting the resolution.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, also met with Vernon Walters here today. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations in the various areas as well as the Iraq-Iran war.

An authoritative source told INA that Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted to the U.S. official Iraq's adherence to Security Council Resolution No 598 in letter and spirit and that Iraq rejects any attempt to split or amend the resolution, which is viewed as a just and comprehensive one for ending the war and bringing about peace.

Walters said his country is eager to end the Iraq-Iran war and bring about peace and that it appreciates Iraq's peaceful positions, its acceptance of Security Council resolutions, and its serious cooperation with other efforts to end the war. The meeting was attended by Wisam al-Zahawi, Iraqi Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the U.S. charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

Defense Minister Inspects Central Sector

JN2305120088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1112 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, inspected the II Army Corps central sector this morning. The defense minister held a meeting which was attended by the chief of staff of the Army, a number of high-ranking officers, and field commanders. During the meeting, Khayrallah praised the high morale of the fighters in this sector.

The defense minister said the great accomplishment of our Armed Forces in the blessed Ramadan operations in liberating our national territory in the city and peninsula of Al-Faw should remain an example before our eyes to enable our capable forces to seize all national soil in all areas of operations in order to deprive the enemy of

using our land in its aggressive acts against our country, and to keep the promise we made to our genuine people and our glorious Arab nation to regain all national territory.

We must now be prepared for action on the same par as the blessed Ramadan operations so that we can fly our banners over enemy-occupied positions in our dear land and the territory affecting our units' security and from where attacks originate against our international borders in Majnun, Al-Shalamjah, Al-Shib, Mehran, Dehloran, Qasr-e Shirin, Sumar, and Halabjah, the defense minister added. The deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister said the Iranian regime's inflexibility and refusal to take up the peace option as outlined by Resolution No 598 will be met in the future with determined battles to regain our occupied land in compliance with the instructions of our leader Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn. This will be done by adopting an offensive approach in order to enforce the will of right and peace, to purge the beloved land, and to safeguard our country's sovereignty and security.

RCC Removes Division Commander for Al-Faw Failure
JN2305094688 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 18 May 88 pp 1, 7

["Text" of RCC Decree No 440 dated 10 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council.

Decree No 440.

Date of the decree: 10 May 1988.

Decree.

In accordance with the provisions of Clause A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC in its session on 10 May 1988 decided the following:

1. To expel Brigadier General Sa'd 'Abd al-Hadi Muhammad Salih, commander of the 7th Division, from the Army because he did not carry out his set duties in accordance with the liberation plan in the "Blessed Ramadan" operations and for not taking to task the commanders who did not carry out their duties correctly in the battle for the liberation of Al-Faw in accordance with military laws and the powers granted under these laws.

2. The minister of defense will carry out this decree.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Memorandums Exchanged With UK on Tanker Attack
JN2305140388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1308 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—Iraq has rejected a British protest over an Iraqi air attack against the UK-registerd ship "Burma Endeavour" [name as received] near Larak Island in the southern Arabian Gulf on 14 May.

In a memorandum submitted to the British ambassador in Baghdad on 19 May, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the ship "Burma Endeavour" was sailing in a war operations zone inside Iranian territorial waters. This shows that the ship was dealing and cooperating with Iran to revive the latter's war economy and enable it to continue the aggressive war against Iraq. The Iraqi memorandum is in reply to a memorandum from the British Foreign Office presented on 17 May. The British memorandum contained an unjust stand whose the purpose is recognized by Iraq.

Following is the text of the Iraqi and British memorandums:

Text of an Iraqi memorandum handed to the British ambassador in Baghdad on 19 May 1988:

Greetings to the British Foreign Office. Referring to the latter's memorandum presented on 17 May 1988, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to note that it rejects the protest contained in the memorandum and replies to the falsehoods included in the memorandum as follows: According to the memorandum, the UK-registered ship called "Burma Endeavour" was attacked near Larak Island in the southern Arabian Gulf. This shows that the ship was sailing in a war operations zone inside Iranian territorial waters, which proves that it was dealing and cooperating with Iran to revive the latter's war economy and enable it to continue the aggressive war against Iraq.

Given that it is a party to an armed conflict with Iran, international law gives Iraq the right to carry out its military operations against enemy vessels and vessels that cooperate with Iran to revive its war economy. From this premise, the Iraqi Air Force raids against vessels and tankers that cooperate with Iran are legitmate actions from the legal point of view.

Iraq denies any responsibility for its legitimate military operations and is not legally liable for targeting vessels and tankers that cooperate with the aggressor Iranian regime. These vessels and tankers are aware of the perils of their presence in the military zone of operations, and accordingly cannot be considered as neutral, for they provide effective assistance to the Iranian regime, which insists on prolonging the war. Therefore, Iraq's attacks against such vessels and tankers are part of the inalienable rights that are acknowledged by international law.

Iraq has agreed to UN Security Council Resolution No 598 while Iran has rejected it. The resolution could be implemented following its acceptance by the two sides. The UN Security Council is called to take measures to force Iran to agree to the resolution, or to impose sanctions against it in accordance with the resolution and the UN Charter.

It is necessary to note here that in addition to being responsible for establishing peace in the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, all the UN Security Council members are also dutybound to take measures to prevent individuals and companies that are subject to their laws from undertaking any action that is biased to the party which rejects peace, that is Iran. They also must ban any cooperation with it to bolster its war efforts as this will encourage it to reject the UN Security Council resolution and to prolong the war.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry grasps this opportunity to express its utmost appreciation and respect.

The following is the textual translation of the British memorandum:

The British Foreign Office greets the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq and has the honor to put on record its vehement protest against the serious attack against a British vessel by Iraqi aircraft.

At 0940 GMT on 14 May 1988, Iraqi aircraft attacked the British registered "Burma Endeavour" near Larak Island in the southern part of the Gulf, setting it on fire. Fortunately, no casualties were sustained from this incident in spite of the fact that it is believed that 20 to 26 persons have been killed in attacks that were launched against other vessels in the neighboring area at the same time.

The attack against the "Burma Endeavour" is premeditated, unjustified, and illegal. It is also a blatant violation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598, which is binding and which was passed on 20 July 1987. This resolution was also accepted by the Iraqi Government.

Her majesty's government reserves to itself the right to ask for compensation from the Iraqi Government for the casualties, damages, and the expenses brought about by this attack against the "Burma Endeavour" or by any other similar attack. In addition to this, her majesty's government asks the Government of the Republic of Iraq to give assurances that such premeditated and unjustified attacks against unarmed British mercantile vessels will not recur.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,184

JN2005162888 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 May 88

[Communique No 3,184 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our daring Air Force continued its missions against enemy units, inflicting more losses. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God, after flying 74 combat missions.

2. Our helicopters today carried out 124 combat sorties through which they inflicted on the aggressors new losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. All our helicopters then returned safely to base in God's care and protection.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, three ammunition dumps were blown up, one observation post and one shelter were destroyed, and two vehicles were set on fire. In the II Army Corps central sector, four infantry positions were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

4. Two enemy soldiers were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One infantry position was destroyed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one scoundrel was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. In the V Army Corps northern sector, one observation post and one shelter were destroyed. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one large vehicle was set on fire and one SPG-9 gun emplacement was destroyed.

6. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: destroying two large vehicles; killing three enemy personnel; burning one shovel; destroying a machine gun emplacement; and destroying one observation post and one infantry position.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 May 1988

Spokesman Denies Bombing

JN2105084388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—The Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims that the Iraqi aircraft bombed the Iranian city of Paveh. In a statement to INA, the Iraqi spokesman said: Iraqi aircraft raids were targeted only against Iranian positions and assembly points along the border. He noted that the Iranian claims aim at justifying the shelling of Iraqi residential areas with long-range artillery.

Communique No 3,185

JN2105164688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1605 GMT 21 May 88

[Communique No 3,185 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 21 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued their combat activities for last night and today as follows:

1. An enemy force estimated at two infantry platoons tried yesterday morning to approach the positions of one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan. Our courageous fighters confronted it and clashed with it using various weapons. They managed to kill 20 scoundrels. The remaining members of the force fled the scene chased by the hot firepower of the Iraqis. Blessed be the heroic troops of the IV Army Corps.

2. Six enemy personnel were killed, eight infantry positions and four personnel shelters were destroyed, and eight vehicles were damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector. Also, one scoundrel was killed and two infantry positions were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Four enemy gun emplacements were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector. Furthermore, five infantry positions and one observation post were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Two ammunition dumps were blown up and two infantry positions and one single-barreled machine gun were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. Also, four scoundrels were killed on the warfront of the VII Army Corps sector. One enemy boat was also destroyed in the eastern bank of Shatt al-'Arab.

5. The criminal Iranian enemy used long-range artillery last night to shell residential quarters in the city of Basra. The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 May 1988

Communique No 3,186

JN2205164488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 May 88

[Communique No 3,186 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. While our Air Force was carrying out combat missions over the Arabian Gulf, it spotted an enemy F-14 plane at 1200 [0800 GMT] today. Our brave knights engaged in an effective dogfight, destroying and downing the enemy plane. It was seen exploding and falling in burning pieces into the Gulf waters.

2. At 0915 today, when our brave helicopter gunships were carrying out their combat missions in the I Army Corps northern sector, they spotted two enemy Bell helicopter gunships. The brave knights of the helicopter gunships directed an effective hit at them, downing one of them. It was seen falling in flames on the enemy troops. The other helicopter gunship fled. The knights carried out 76 combat missions today, inflicting on our country's enemies new losses in personnel and equipment. Then they returned safely to base. God be praised.

3. Units from our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector opened artillery fire on enemy positions opposite them, killing 20 enemy personnel, destroying 3 vehicles, and damaging 1 tank. Elsewhere in the sector, nine scoundrels were killed; one single-barreled machinegun, two infantry positions, and one vehicle were destroyed; five vehicles were damaged; and two ammunition dumps were blown up.

4. Our formations in the II Army Corps central sector inflicted the following losses on the enemy: damaging two tanks; destroying three infantry positions; killing two enemy personnel; and destroying two machinegun emplacements, five firing positions, and one observation post.

5. One ammunition dump was blown up and one shovel [preceding word in English] was damaged in the VII Army Corps front.

6. A number of Iranian civilians took refuge with our forward positions. They were evacuated safely to rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 May 1988

Communique No 3,187

JN2305164188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 23 May 88

[Communique No 3,187 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. Today, our heroic Air Force flew 145 combat missions, which inflicted further losses on the aggressors. Afterward, all our planes returned safely to base in God's care.

2. While the helicopter gunship knights were carrying out their missions in the I Army Corps northern sector, they spotted an enemy Bell-214 helicopter, fired at it, and

downed it. It was seen falling in flames on the enemy units at 1100 [0700 GMT] today. This is the second helicopter hunted down by the knights during the past 24 hours. Our helicopter gunships flew 163 combat missions in various operational sectors, which inflicted important losses on the enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment. Afterward, all our helicopter gunships returned safely to base. Blessed be your efforts, O knights. Determination and success come from God.

3. A courageous force from one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan raided enemy positions opposite them. With an efficient performance and splendid backing by the artillery and mortar men, the force stormed these positions, destroying them along with their evil occupants and their weapons. More than 20 enemy soldiers were killed and others were wounded. The remainder of the enemy troops fled, leaving behind the corpses of their dead along with their destroyed weapons and positions. After carrying out its duty, the force returned safely to base. May God bless our valiant men in the heroic IV Army Corps. Praise be to God for His victory.

4. Through concentrated blows by artillery against selected enemy targets in the I Army Corps northern sector, 18 scoundrels were killed; 6 various vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed, one carrying personnel; and 2 infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed.

5. Two enemy troops were killed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces. Moreover, three others were killed; five infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed; and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector three infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed and four ammunition dumps were blown up.

7. Today, the criminal Iranian enemy shelled residential areas in the village of Darband-i Khan with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling injured civilians and damaged civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 May 1988

Dubinin Document 'Unexpected' Soviet 'Shift'

TA2305120888 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 May 88 pp A1, 2

[Excerpt] The "nondocument" Yuriy Dubinin, the Soviet ambassador to the United States, read to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during their meeting in Washington last week includes some surprising elements. This stand indicates a real and unexpected shift in the well-known firm Soviet positions on the international conference and the establishment of a Palestinian state, and even point to a change in the Soviet interpretation of UN Security Council Resolution 242. This was learned by MA'ARIV yesterday.

The ambassador insisted that the document be considered a "nonpaper" [last word published in English]. Peres and his aides were forced to take down its specifics as they listened to him. The meeting was held in Edgar Bronfman's Washington apartment.

"Our basic assumption is that some principles relating to the Middle East conflict are unavoidable. Flexibility should be shown in translating those principles into reality," the document states. The Soviets avoided handing Peres a copy of the document to preserve the diplomatic principle that this was merely an expression of "ideas." A review of the draft of the "nonpaper" by MA'ARIV reveals novelties in the Soviet approach toward the peace process. —Withdrawal "from territories": For the first time, the Soviet Union endorses the English version of Resolution 242, as it was passed 20 years ago, describing the solution to the problem of the territories: "The territorial basis for a settlement is defined in UN Resolution 242 which expects an Israeli troop withdrawal from territories conquered in 1967." The use of the term "from territories" rather than "from the territories" proves, in the opinion of Israel and the United States, that the resolution does not call for a return to the exact 1967 borders. This interpretation had to date been unacceptable to the Soviets. — Avoiding the use of force to resolve the conflict: Neither the Arab countries nor the PLO accept this principle at all. At the same time, it is one of Israel's fundamental demands. The Dubinin document states: "A lasting peace cannot be attained before the sides faithfully adhere to the principles of equality, equal security, nonintervention in the other side's internal affairs, respect for each other's political independence and sovereignty, and renunciation of the use of force to solve disputed issues. [no closing quotation marks as published] —Resolution 242, the Jordanian option: Without forgoing the principle of Palestinian self-determination, the "Dubinin document" does not unequivocally demand the establishment of a Palestinian state. Rather, it states: "Realization of the Palestinians' right to self-determination is their affair; it is up to them to decide whether they wish to live in their own state or enter into a confederation with one of their neighbors." —The international conference: That part of the document which discusses the arrangements and procedures for the conference includes two encouraging signs.

1) The view of the "conference plenum," namely the forum that includes all the parties concerned as well as the permanent members of the Security Council, as a permanent body, has been replaced by the agreement that the forum will be convened "at somewhat regular intervals." The fact that the Soviets are no longer demanding a conference "with authority" is highly significant.

2) The agreement to hold direct deliberations in bilateral "geographic" subcommittees. According to the Shultz-Peres concept, only these deliberations will have any power. The Soviets also mentioned discussions by "multilateral working groups on subjects dealing with the interests of all or most of the parties involved in the conflict." —A Soviet acceptance of the principle of "interim arrangements" as outlined in the Shultz plan: "We have no objection to intermediary measures or a phased process of reaching a comprehensive settlement," says the "nonpaper." These must, however, be discussed "within the framework of the conference and must be linked to the comprehensive agreement." This formulation can easily be reconciled with the U.S. proposal.

The Soviet working paper also includes positions that conflict with U.S. and Israeli stands. Most notably are those calling for self-determination for the Palestinian people and those presenting the PLO as "the legitimate representative of the Arab people of Palestine." Commentators believe the Soviet Union may obtain European support for the revised version of its proposals. [passage omitted]

Ben-Aharon Sees No 'Shift' in Soviet Stand

TA2305121388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 May 88

[Interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, by political correspondents 'Oded Ben-'Ami and Aharon Barne'a; place not given—live]

[Text] [Ben-'Ami] One of the midday newspapers carries the headline: A Surprising Soviet Shift in Position Paper That Dubinin Read to Peres. Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office, is our guest here in the studio. I understand you do not think there is a surprising Soviet shift?

[Ben-Aharon] Unfortunately, the information carried by that midday paper you quoted does not reflect our attitude to the Soviet position as presented in that document and in that meeting with the foreign minister. Having thoroughly read the document and compared it to remarks the Soviets made to us in the past—before this interview I read the protocols of the meeting between Foreign Minister Shamir and Gromyko in 1984—I do not see any shift. I do not know why the people of Israel should be exposed to such repeated shows of alleged shifts in the Soviet stand, when the truth is that the Soviet stand is still in favor of an authoritative international conference; a Palestinian state, which they now call self-determination; and PLO participation in the process. So where is the shift?

[Ben-'Ami] If the quotes from the document, which is in fact a nonpaper [last word in English], can be trusted, it would be the first time that the Soviets, in referring to Resolution 242 in its English version, which is the binding one, have mentioned a withdrawal from territories, rather than from the territories—that is, not from all the territories. There is also no categorical demand for the establishment of a Palestinian state, but for self-determination only. There is no demand for an authoritative international conference, only for a conference to accompany the negotiations.

[Ben-Aharon] Well, if we start talking about synonyms, we will get nowhere. There are word games in the Soviet presentation, depending on the party they are addressing. When they present the issue to the Americans—we were told this by the Americans after the latest round—not only is there no change in our favor, but the Soviet position is even more rigid. Now if you take the presentation we have here, which was intended for the ear of the Israeli who either reads or hears it, they do mention a withdrawal from territories, which is a quotation from Resolution 242. Later, however, they give an explicit interpretation.

[Ben-'Ami] But we know what the Soviet interpretation of that paragraph was in the past.

[Ben-Aharon] There is no need to refer to interpretations. I do not know whether it is included in the midday newspaper report on the document, but in that very document they state clearly what they mean by a withdrawal from territories: the West Bank of Jordan, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. Why should we then try to play around with a word, territories or the territories? The same goes for...

[Ben-'Ami, interrupting] But this was always the big difference, the one between the Israeli stand on this Resolution 242 point, and the Arab-Soviet one.

[Ben-Aharon] True, and the difference is still viable. I also want to add: You have said that the conference the Soviets are now talking about is not authoritative. Well, the position as presented to the foreign minister stipulates that the conference will operate on three levels: the conference plenum, the multilateral committee, and the regional committees. It also said that the conference can make recommendations and proposals.

[Ben-'Ami] Yes, but not coerce.

[Ben-Aharon] Nobody has ever said that. Even Gromyko in 1984 said, and I quote: If you do not want a conference, there will be no conference, because from the nature of things, nobody can coerce you into one. This position has not changed. The issue is not that the Red Army and the Marines will arrive here and force us. But within this context of a conference with the participation of all those they recommend, who will make recommendations and pass resolutions, it may not be military coercion, but it certainly is political coercion.

[Ben-'Ami] But still, Mr Ben-Aharon, the controversy regarding the nature of the international conference is the topic bringing Mr Shamir, Mr Peres, and the Soviets to the same table. There is no room here for a far reaching breakthrough, each step in this matter will probably be a tiny one. If the Soviets do indeed give up the idea of an authoritative international conference, if they agree to a conference which will convene only for periodic updates, and if they accept the geographical committees—between Jordan and Israel for negotiations on their problems; between Israel and the Palestinians for negotiations over the West Bank; and between Israel and Syria, if Syria joins in—if they do accept this, it would be a significant and positive move. Do you not think so?

[Ben-Aharon] Negative. First of all, what you are saying is not accurate. They did not say that the conference will only make recommendations. As I said earlier, there will be three forums, and the one that debates, recommends, and passes resolutions is not the entity you have described: a passive body coming to the negotiations simply to listen. It is much more than even Shultz proposed, and the prime minister did not even accept that, as you know.

Look, the Americans asked the Soviets in their last round of talks: Which issues do you think belong to bilateral talks, and which are in the sphere of multilateral talks? The Soviets answered that the Palestinian problem is, of course, part of the multilateral talks. This means that the problem defined as the root of the conflict must be debated in the conference plenum. This plenum will then pass resolutions having the appropriate prestige and authority. This is out of the question.

May I make another remark? We are constantly playing around with the external framework without dealing with the roots of the problem. The roots of the problem are as follows: No independent state hands its security and future over to a forum which it cannot control and whose resolutions are unforeseeable. Only a country defeated in war, as happened after the first and second world wars or in the Berlin Congress in 1878, can be dragged to a negotiating table where its fate is determined. We are the independent State of Israel, and we must not allow a thing like that to happen.

[Barne'a] Let me ask you about Husni Mubarak's proposal. He proposes that if Israel does not like the developments at the conference, it can always pack its bags and go home. Why not give it a chance by beginning something?

[Ben-Aharon] We are all in favor of giving it a chance, but not by beginning the process by stepping into murky waters. We are willing to begin by direct negotiations, to be followed by...

[Ben-'Ami, interrupting] This is exactly the question that should be addressed to you, or to Mr Shamir, since you are so close to him. Upon his return, Mr Peres said that in all his contacts with the Soviets, in Budapest, then in Madrid, and later in Washington, he felt that there was a certain openness in the Soviets' approach. The perception is that the prime minister's office is obstructing this development.

[Ben-Aharon] First of all, I regret this perception. If the foreign minister had behaved as is fitting in a unity government; if he brought each initiative, proposal, or assessment to the Cabinet for discussion; and if the cabinet then decided that this is the way; then of course the development would be acceptable. The foreign minister would have been representing the entire Government of Israel. If he did that, we would not have gotten ourselves into this whole mess. It is, of course, very easy to approach the Arab, the Soviet, or the British representative and tell him: Look, I am willing to concede. Then, naturally, you get a pat on the back. But we are talking about peace, and it is too serious a matter to...

[Barne'a, interrupting] Mr Ben-Aharon, I would like to pose a final question. Why is it that each time Shim'on Peres, or the Foreign Ministry which is currently under his control, makes a move to budge the process from standstill, the prime minister's office promptly says that the development is meaningless?

[Ben-Aharon] First of all, not so promptly. We must insist on an accurate presentation of the facts. We feel we owe it to the people of this country. If there is an assessment that the public is being given an inaccurate picture, I think it is the duty of the prime minister, and of his office, to explain things to the public as the prime minister sees it.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, perhaps just one more question on the Israeli-Egyptian issue. What is happening with regard to Tabah? Are we going to wait for the arbitration panel's decision, or will an effort be made for conciliation? If it is to be conciliation, then you will probably head the team.

[Ben-Aharon] We have notified the Egyptians, through the United States, that we prefer conciliation. Was this not the prime minister's choice from the beginning of the Tabah process? In principle a compromise is always better than relying on a third party, whether an international conference or an arbitration panel. The Egyptians are the ones who objected. We have now offered compromise again, but without preconditions. They want us to recognize their sovereignty a priori. Not merely a theoretical sovereignty, but also its implementation in the field, in some very significant matters. With this attitude there is no point in talking about conciliation. The ball, therefore, rests in the Egyptian court.

[Ben-'Ami] Thank you very much.

Peres Returns From U.S., Issues Statement

TA2005172188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] A short time ago Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returned to Israel from the United States. ITIM correspondent Tzvi Tziper reports that at a news conference at Ben-Gurion Airport, Peres said he had arrived at an agreement with the U.S. Administration to continue the peace process.

Mr Peres told our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami that after much debate at the Socialist International meetings, a denunciation of Israel was ultimately averted.

Army Suspects Arms Smuggling From Egypt to Gaza

TA1905144688 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 May 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] Military officials believe that means of warfare are being smuggled from Egypt into the Gaza Strip, both by land and sea routes. It seems that the smuggling includes mainly light weapons and ammunition.

Several days ago a speedboat entered the dock at Dayr al-Balah, and its cargo and engine were dismantled before IDF soldiers could reach it. The boat is believed to have brought weapons from Egypt.

Gaza Strip residents are allowed the use of small boat engines (under 20 HP) only. The speedboat's engine was probably dismantled because it was bigger, and thus against the regulations.

Military officials said that a considerable number of Gaza Strip residents have handguns and other weapons, but they refrain from using them.

Lubrani Comments on Syrian Moves in Lebanon

TA2105093988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, says that there has been a drop in the number of attacks on the IDF and the South Lebanese Army in the security zone and the northern border as a result of the fighting between Amal and Hizballah. In an interview on the weekly newsreel, Lubrani said he believes that the entry of the Syrian Army into the southern suburbs of Beirut would have no effect on the security situation in the south. He went on to say that

Israel is carefully monitoring the Syrian Army's deployment and added that the Syrians are well aware of this. Lubrani stressed that as long as there is no direct threat to Israel's northern border, the Syrians can do whatever they please in Beirut.

In an interview with Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a, Lubrani added that Israel has allowed a large number of people fleeing Beirut to find refuge in southern Lebanon and even enter the security zone.

Sentence of Jewish Underground Convicts Commuted
TA2005171888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 20 May 88

[Excerpt] President Hayim Herzog today commuted the sentence of some 80 prisoners, including the three Jewish underground convicts who were sentenced to life imprisonment. The three are Menahem Livni, Sha'ul Nir, and 'Uzi Sharbas. The president commuted their sentence to 15 years in prison. The three have been in jail for the past 5 years. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that this move was made on the occasion of Israel's 40th anniversary. [passage omitted]

Paper Editors Charged With Membership in DFLP
TA2305084188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Indictments were submitted this morning to the Jerusalem District Court against DEREKH HANITZOTZ [THE WAY OF THE SPARK] editors Roni Ben-Efrat and Mikhal Schwartz for membership in Nayif Hawatimah's terrorist organization. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the two face four charges: contact with a foreign agent, membership in an illegal group, providing services to an illegal group, and membership in a terrorist organization. The maximum penalty for the first charge is 15 years imprisonment, 10 years for the next 2 charges, and 5 for the last.

The prosecution claims that either at the end of 1983 or the beginning of 1984, Mikhal Schwartz met in London with a senior member of Hawatimah's organization who convinced her to join the group. According to the indictment, Schwartz joined the organization and was followed shortly by Roni Ben-Efrat. The agreement with Hawatimah's men was that the two would form a Jewish-Arab political organization and publish a newspaper financed by the DFLP. Mikhal Schwartz and Roni Ben-Efrat formed a non-profit organization called Hanitzotz Publishers and published the DEREKH HANITZOTZ periodical with DFLP funding. Two DFLP members regularly provided funds and issued instructions to the Hanitzotz members.

After reading the indictment, a hearing began in the judge's chambers regarding the request that the defendants be remanded until after the legal proceedings are completed. At the defense's request, the hearing was postponed until 12 June. The two defendants will remain in custody until that date.

'Leftists' Stage Anti-Detention Demonstrations
TA2105174588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] A group of Israeli leftists staged a demonstration near the Ramallah jail this afternoon. They protested against the detention of more than 5,000 residents of the territories since the beginning of the riots. In the north, leftists demonstrated near the 'Atlit detention facility and the Jalama prison where Munira Da'ud, the Bayta woman who threw a stone at Romam Aldubi after he killed an Arab child, is being held. There were protest vigils near the Neve Tirza and Ayyalon jails today.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1700 GMT on 21 May in a similar report adds that "60 women also marched outside the Neve Tirza women's prison near Ramla to demand the release of jailed Palestinian women."]

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that two groups who left to demonstrate near jails in the Nabulus area were stopped at IDF roadblocks. One of the groups staged a demonstration near the roadblock adjacent to the Al-Fari'ah prison in Nabulus. The other group returned to the Green Line boundaries and demonstrated at the Ra'anana junction.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Policeman Injured in Nabulus
TA2005173388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] In Nabulus, a border policeman was stabbed and sustained slight wounds. In another incident, at the entrance of the Military Government building in Gaza, a woman attacked a border policeman and was arrested. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

E. Jerusalem Schools Reopen
TA2205063088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Studies were resumed in East Jerusalem this morning after schools had been closed for the past 4 months following riots.

A Voice of Israel Arabic broadcast correspondent, Ibrahim Shahid, reports that over 80 percent of the pupils and all the teachers have arrived for school. Many pupils said they are glad that studies have been resumed.

There are 31 educational institutions in East Jerusalem, including kindergartens, primary schools, and high schools. They are attended by some 16,000 children.

2 Killed, 4 Wounded 22 May

TA2205184788 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Two people were killed and four wounded in the territories today. An Israeli civilian was wounded by a Molotov cocktail which was thrown at his vehicle in Tulkarm. He was transferred to the hospital for treatment. Two bodies of Arabs were discovered this morning in a burned car north of Tulkarm. The dead are a mother and her son, residents of Dayr al-Ghusun in Samaria. The two were returning last night from a hospital to which they had taken a relative who was about to deliver, and it is now being investigated whether the two were victims of Molotov cocktail throwers who wanted to damage Israeli vehicles.

Demonstrations were staged in Nabulus, Qalqilyah, and Tulkarm today. Two Arabs were wounded in the Nabulus casbah, while a violent demonstration took place in Tulkarm in the wake of the death of the local resident who was killed there yesterday. (Shayid Sa'ib), who is head of the trade unions in Nabulus and is identified with the Fatah, was detained yesterday.

Detention System Reorganized

TA2005045088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] The Army Central Command responsible for Judaea and Samaria will close several small prisons and concentrate the thousands of Palestinian detainees being held since December in three major detention centers. This is part of a new reorganization of the army to streamline its prison system. Steve Rodan has the story:

For months the military detention system could be described in one word: chaotic. Lawyers couldn't find their Palestinian clients, families couldn't find their sons in jail. But now the army says it has cleaned up its act in Judaea and Samaria.

It has acquired computers to check up on Palestinian prisoners, and has closed up several small facilities. The military will now concentrate the thousands of detainees from Judaea and Samaria in three major prison centers: Qezi'ot in the Negev, 'Atlit near Haifa, and the new detention center in Megiddo near 'Afula. Lawyers will have unlimited access to their clients in these facilities. Still, the new system comes too late for three Palestinians. The army says they were found to have been imprisoned for no legal reason. A senior officer says they can now sue the military for damages.

Administrative Detention Data

TA2005044088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] About 1,800 residents in the territories have been placed under administrative detention without trial since the beginning of the uprising. They will shortly be concentrated in the Qezi'ot facility in the Negev. This has been announced by the Central Command's adjutant. Most of the administrative detainees are suspected of being leaders of the outlawed Al-Shabibah youth movement but there is not enough evidence to bring them to trial.

Hebron Notable Publishes Book on 'Uprising'

TA2105194088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] The first book on the uprising has been published in the territories. The author, Muhammad al-Nasir of Hebron [former head of the Hebron area Village League], has reached the conclusion that the incidents in the territories will result in strengthening the Islamic trend in Judaea and Samaria and in an increase in the power of leftist elements in PLO circles outside the territories.

Our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Al-Nasir has leveled cautious criticism at the attempt by the uprising leaders to disconnect the population from the Israeli administration at this early stage, suggesting rather that one first approach the task of breaking the power of the parasitic strata within the Palestinian society. The book presents the uprising as a demonstration of power by the lower strata, pointing to what the author sees as cancerous growths developing on the back of the PLO organizations, in the form of groups which benefited from outside aid without being true partners to the struggle.

King To Lead Delegation to Algerian Summit
JN2205181088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 88

[Randa Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] King Husayn will lead the Jordanian delegation to the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Algiers on 7 June to discuss the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. This was divulged to our radio by an authorized Jordanian source. The source affirmed Jordan's eagerness to participate in all Arab summits regardless of the circumstances, based on its conviction in the benefit of joint Arab action.

The source also said that Amman asked Algiers to invite Egypt to the emergency summit, given King Husayn's assertion that Egypt's participation in the Arab summit has nothing to do with restoring its Arab League membership that was suspended in 1979. According to the king, the institution of the Arab summit is practically separate from the institution of the Arab League.

An informed source in Amman asserted that in principle Algiers has not objected to Egypt's participation in the summit work but expressed fear that such an invitation would lead to some Arab states withdrawing from and boycotting the summit.

On another level, Jordanian political circles have not ruled out restoring ties between Cairo and Algiers in the near future, noting that only technical, secondary issues are preventing the implementation of this move.

It is to be noted that it was Egypt that initiated severing ties with Algiers on 5 December 1977 within a move that also included Libya, Syria, the PDRY, and Iraq in response to their participation in the Tripoli summit, which denounced then Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem.

Statement by West Bank Figures in Amman Banned
JN2105130288 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] A number of West Bank figures in Amman, including deputies and senators in the Jordanian Parliament, have distributed a statement to Jordanian newspapers voicing their support for the policy being pursued by King Husayn toward the Palestine question. They also called on the PLO to bring about a full coordination with Jordan to lend the joint Jordanian-Palestinian action the required weight. In addition, they recalled the cohesion and unity binding the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples.

However, a well-informed source told us that an official directive was issued at the last minute to ban the publication of this statement in order to prevent interpreting the declared Jordanian stand toward the independent Palestinian decisionmaking as a merely tactical one. The source added that the Jordanian stand announced by Husayn is a constant and irrevocable strategy based on Jordan's conviction regarding the need to see the PLO represent the Palestinian people in any peace negotiations in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians.

Soviet Ambassador Holds News Conference 22 May
JN2305063288 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 May 88 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The conflicts of the Middle East are expected to assume a "high and prominent place" on the agenda of the May 29-June 2 superpower summit in Moscow and special emphasis will be given to the proposed Middle East peace conference, Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Aleksandr Zinchuk said Sunday.

At a press conference held at the Soviet embassy, Zinchuk noted that the United States, which had always "adamantly" rejected the idea of an international peace conference, now accepts the proposal but Moscow and Washington remain divided on the effectiveness and authorities of such a forum. The basic change in the U.S. attitude, Zinchuk said, was a result of combined Arab efforts spearheaded by Jordan and pressure from the Soviet Union.

"The United States is now willing to accept the idea of an international peace conference, but only as a cocktail party with no authoritative power," Zinchuk said.

Zinchuk reiterated the Soviet position that the conference should be "comprehensive and effective" and based on U.N. Security Council and all concerned parties, including the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).

Zinchuk said the Soviet Union would not resume diplomatic ties with Israel until the Zionist state agrees to attend an effective peace conference aimed at securing Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and allowing Palestinians to exercise their legitimate rights. The conference should not be just "an umbrella for bilateral talks," he said.

Zinchuk said that while the Soviet Union insists on an "effective" peace conference, it does not call for one which would dictate or impose any solution on the parties of the conflict. The conference should allow all the parties to "express their point of view in a positive manner which would help constructive development in peace talks," he said.

Zinchuk confirmed that "there are open communication channels between the Soviet Union and Israel outside the realm of diplomatic ties and these contacts are paramount to reaching a settlement to the Middle East

conflict." "Israel has become a reality... and should be pressured to take a realistic and intelligent stand towards an international peace conference," he said.

Zinchuk accused the international media and Israeli press of "intentionally distorting the Soviet image in the Arab World."

Zinchuk described the latest American peace proposal for the Middle East as "one-sided, not taking into account the different angles and needs of the issue at hand." He said that the Soviet Union was not interested in frequently sending envoys to the area with no viable solution to the conflict but would rather make "effective and positive trips which would help the different parties agree upon a route which would guarantee a peaceful settlement."

Zinchuk said the issue of Palestinian representation in peace talks was discussed by His Majesty King Husayn and the Soviet leadership during the King's December 1987 visit to Moscow. There was no point of conflict between Jordan and the Soviet Union on the essence of this issue, the ambassador said.

"Essentially, there is agreement that the PLO should attend an international peace conference on equal footing with other concerned parties," he said. "The shape of the representation will be decided by the PLO its and parties to the conflict," and could take one of three options; a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, a joint Arab delegation or a separate Palestinian delegation, the ambassador said.

Zinchuk praised King Husayn for his mediation efforts which contributed to a solution to the Afghanistan problem and Soviet withdrawal from the country.

AL-RA'Y on Zinchuk Briefing

JN2305093788 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 May 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A Soviet Policy Governed by Values"]

[Text] The Soviet stand on the Middle East issue has always been governed by values and principles that must prevail in our world. Therefore, Moscow condemned the Zionist aggression against the Arab land and continued to refuse to legitimize the results of this aggression. Faced with a U.S. stand supporting aggression and occupation, and supporting their continuation and—moreover—expansion, all efforts could not reach a just settlement of the Middle East crisis and a just solution to the Palestine question.

At a news conference held yesterday by the Soviet Ambassador in Amman, Aleksandr Zinchuk, it was asserted that Moscow's just stands on the Arab-Zionist conflict will continue. It was also asserted that the Jordanian and Soviet stands are identical on the idea of an international conference as the only means through which a settlement of this conflict could be reached to put an end to aggression and occupation and open the way for the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights. The Soviet ambassador also affirmed that Jordan and his country reject temporary and partial solutions and settlements. He emphasized that an entrenched and comprehensive peace can only be achieved through the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and through solving all aspects of the Palestine question.

Jordanian-Soviet relations have developed in all fields. Mutual trust and profound desire to consolidate these relations continuously contributed toward boosting mutual cooperation and constant coordination to advanced stages. Therefore, Jordan's efforts led by King Husayn toward the Afghan issue add new and important elements to the building of cooperation, trust, and coordination between Jordan and the Soviet Union. This was referred to by Zinchuk at his news conference yesterday and described as the object of the Soviet leadership's respect and appreciation. These efforts directly contributed toward reaching the Geneva agreement and expediting an end to the Afghan issue on firm, just, and stable foundations.

It should be indicated that the Soviet policy, which is governed by values and principles, still needs a similar U.S. policy that would lead the world out of its impasse and pains and allow security, stability, and peace to prevail. Insistence on extending material, political, and military support for the Zionist aggression in order to entrench it cannot achieve its short- and long- term objectives in our region represented by inflicting a defeat on the Arab nation and forcing it to surrender. Racist Zionism still imagines this can be done. The hostile U.S. policies still believe that they can achieve this objective, as if history is not full of many lessons on the defeat of force, superiority, and rancor before truth, faithfulness, and determination to live.

2 Kuwaiti Airliner Hijackers Reportedly Killed

NC2105120788 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] The Kuwaiti paper AL-QABAS emphasized today that two of those who hijacked a Kuwaiti airliner in April were killed during clashes between Hizballah and the Amal Movement in Burj al-Barajinah at the beginning of this week.

Citing a report reaching a foreign ministry in a Western country, the paper said the two persons were Qasim Zayn al-Din and Nihad Qasmar.

Negotiations for Syrian Suburb Entry Continue

Kan'an Returns From Damascus

LD2105164988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1543 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Beirut, May 21 (KUNA) — Syrian intelligence chief in Lebanon Brigadier Ghazi Kan'an returned to Beirut Saturday with a key decision on the deployment of the Syrian forces.

Syrian troops are standing by the outskirts of Beirut heavily armed waiting for the zero-hour to stop the fighting between the rival Lebanese militias.

One Syrian officer, speaking to KUNA on condition of anonymity, said that the state of alert in his troops was heightened after the Syrian-Iranian talks in Damascus reached an advanced level to facilitate the entry of five thousand Syrian troops into the southern sector of the shattered Lebanese capital.

The fighting, mainly between so-called Hizballah party and Amal Movement, has caused a major destruction of the area, leading to the death of at least 300 and injury of 1300 others since May 6.

More than half a million residents were forced to evacuate their southern suburbs to the streets, public parks and beaches of safer places. [sentence as received]

One source disclosed that Kan'an's return to Beirut from the Syrian capital may carry with him a decision to deploy his 7,000-man force into the southern sector of Beirut in the next 24 hours.

Kan'an had threatened earlier that the Syrian troops will forcefully enter the fighting zone if they are not allowed peacefully.

Fadlallah Says Suburb 'Open'

NC2105181688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has asserted that the gates of the southern suburb are open to the Syrian Army. In an interview with the AL-ANWAR newspaper, which will be published tomorrow, Fadlallah noted that no party has any intention of confronting the Syrians, expressing the view that the Syrian military source had made a mistake when he said that Hizballah has become an abnormal case.

Fadlallah disclosed that there are no Iranian military personnel in the suburb. He also voiced his readiness to hold a dialogue with the Christians. Fadlallah further said that the Islamic situation must not turn into one of a militia-controlled state. He also affirmed that the boycott policy has proven to be a failure.

4-Party Committee Meets

NC2205064888 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The quadripartite committee met last night at the headquarters of the Syrian observers in the Beau Rivage Hotel. The meeting was attended by the head of the Syrian observers team, Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud; the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam; and Amal and Hizballah representatives. The conferees assessed the results of the talks that Sheykh ol-Eslam had held in Damascus.

Brig Gen Ghazi Kan'an, head of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, who returned to Beirut from Damascus yesterday where he had talks with Syrian officials on the situation in the southern suburb, chaired a meeting of the officers of the Syrian occupation forces and briefed them on the results of his talks in Damascus.

Planned 'Holy Jihad' Denied

NC2205075988 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] A statement released by Scholar Fadlallah's office last night denied a report disseminated by some media that Fadlallah has declared or will declare holy jihad against the Syrian forces and the Amal Movement if the Syrians enter the suburb. The statement regarded this report as untrue and contrary to Scholar Fadlallah's policy.

Canadian Envoy, Fadlallah Meet

NC2205072988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Within the framework of the endeavors being made to secure the release of hostages, the Canadian envoy, (Robert Barnett), stated at dawn today that he had contacted Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah who promised him that he would do everything possible to close the file on the hostages.

Fadlallah affirmed that he will continue to exert pressure to achieve a humanitarian solution to this problem, which falls within a complicated political framework that transcends Lebanon's borders.

Agreement Reached on Hostages

NC2205074988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 May (MENA)—Prominent political sources in Beirut have reported that an agreement was reached during the contacts that were made during the past few hours between Syria, the pro-Iranian Hizballah, and the Iranian Embassy in Beirut. The agreement includes a Hizballah pledge on the safety of the lives of all foreign hostages detained in the southern suburb of Beirut.

In its issue today, the Abu Dhabi based AL-ITTIHAD paper quotes these sources as saying that Damascus has told Iranian Envoy Mohammad 'Ali Besharati that any harm to the hostages will be considered an action directed against Syria, regardless of whether or not Syrian forces enter the southern suburb.

The paper also reports that the agreement in principle reached during the Syrian-Iranian negotiations on the entry of Syrian forces into the southern suburb involves eight major points that will be implemented immediately after the zero hour is set for the Syrian force's entry. These points stipulate a total cease-fire by Hizballah and the Amal Movement in all parts of the southern suburb; the withdrawal of all gunmen from the streets; and the establishment of a joint committee composed from the Syrian forces, the Iranian Embassy, the Amal Movement, and Hizballah, to insure that these points are carried out. It is only after this that the Syrian forces will then begin entering the southern suburb.

Hizballah Demands Guarantees

NC2205161788 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Foreign news agencies have cited a Hizballah spokesman as saying that the ongoing negotiations over the issue of the southern suburb center on how the Syrians will be deployed in the area. The spokesman reiterated that his party is not opposed to such a deployment, but demands guarantees concerning its future political action and military activities, as well as the need for a reconciliation with the Amal Movement.

The spokesman added that if a reconciliation takes place with Amal, then only Syrian military observers will be allowed to enter the suburb.

Iran's Besharati Cited

NC2205180088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Shi'ite sources close to the Iranian delegation have cited Mohammad 'Ali Besharati as expressing the conviction that the Syrians will not implement their threat to enter the southern suburb by force in order to avoid harming the good relations which exist between Damascus and Tehran. If the Syrians enter the suburb by force, Besharati is cited as saying, no one would be able to restrain the Hizballah gunmen, who would be forced to defend themselves and fight to the death. This, the Shi'ite sources added, would generate a violent confrontation with the Syrians, and would give rise to broader Shi'ite support for Hizballah. The Syrian personnel would then be the targets of various military operations.

The same sources went on to say that the Iranians believe that a Syrian entry into the suburb would represent a resumption of the civil war in Lebanon.

Hizballah, Kan'an Meet

NC2305055588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] The higher four-party security committee, which includes the Amal Movement, Hizballah, Syrian observers, and an Iranian delegation, met last night until it was late. Hizballah's representative did not attend. The Iranian representative proposed the formation of a joint Syrian-Iranian security force to enter the southern suburb and end the conflict, but the Syrian representative refused to discuss the issue, saying that this exceeds the committee's authority. The Amal Movement also rejected the proposal, saying it is impractical and opens the situation to new dangers. Amal representative Ayyub Humayyid underlined the importance of Syrian deployment, because Israel is the only beneficiary from the delay. He noted that, so far, 600 families have fled the suburb to the security strip.

The meeting ended at this point, with agreement to hold another meeting today, the time of which was not set.

AL-SAFIR reports that a new round of negotiations is occurring on two axes: the four-party committee and direct negotiations between Hizballah and the Syrian Command. A Hizballah delegation comprising Ibrahim al-Amin, Al-Hajj Husayn al-Khalil, and leaders from Al-Biqa' visited 'Anjar yesterday and reportedly met with Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an [head of Syrian Military Intelligence in Lebanon]. The paper cites reliable sources in Beirut as saying that the Syrian Command is in no hurry and has decided to discuss all details with the Iranians.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati left Beirut for Damascus yesterday in the company of the Iranian ambassador to Damascus. Besharati will go from Damascus to Tehran to report to Iranian officials on the latest developments in the southern suburb.

The AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY cites political circles as saying that the Syrian entry into the suburb might not be carried out now and could be delayed until after the emergency Arab summit in Algiers. It adds that the Syrian move faces the obstacle of Iranian insistence on rejecting this entry for two reasons: the first concerns resolving the issue of the U.S. hostages, as Iran is

insisting that the objective for which these hostages have been abducted be fulfilled; and the second concerns safeguarding the political future of Hizballah.

The sources added that another reason for the delay of the Syrian entry is the inability of the U.S. Administration to make the appropriate decision to find a solution to the issue of U.S. hostages.

Hizballah 'Source' Cited on Conflict With Amal

NC2305091188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] A responsible Hizballah source has said that what is taking place in the southern suburb is merely an attempt by Nabih Birri and his clique to complete their attack against the Islamic resistance. Hizballah threatened to punish the arm that tries to harm it and to wrench it from its shoulder. He said: We will make everybody pay the price for their aggression and for daring to attack our kinsmen in the suburb and the South.

The statement added: They started to like Syria only once it was to their benefit in consolidating their positions, chairs, and turbans. Some people from a particular group, known for their despicable positions, are trying to harm Hizballah and its mujahidin. We had preferred to not reply to them, hoping that they would respect their positions and stop slipping to the level they had reached. But they have persisted in their arrogance, uttering many cheap and false statements. We have no choice but to respond, hoping that they will wake up from their delusion and choose their appropriate position. The source was referring here to the Amal Movement and particularly to Nabih Birri.

Hizballah also said that the South is today under the control of heckling hypocrites whose dealings are cheap. He described the talk about commitment to Islam as a joke.

Sources close to Hizballah have explained the latter's viewpoint, saying: With its unique military position in the southern suburb, Hizballah will not relinquish its gains while the Amal Movement refuses to share with it its former positions in the South. The sources added that Syria does not want to clash with Hizballah in the suburb because it needs Hizballah, particularly its role in the Islamic resistance. These sources also said that Iran will make its relations with Syria dependent on the fate of Hizballah in Lebanon. Iran is backing the Islamic fundamentalist movement with more than $15 million per month in money and weapons because it considers Lebanon one of its war arenas in the Middle East.

The sources added that Hizballah is not feeling politically isolated in its environment. The suburb is linked to the Beirut airport and the coast. Both are its outlets to the world outside of Lebanon. Hizballah is also in close touch with the Palestinian camps, even though it has a dispute with Yasir 'Arafat. Thus, it does not expect the Progressive Socialist Party in the mountains to become hostile.

Iranian 'Snatched'; Handed Over to Syrians

NC2105113088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Amal fighters snatched an Iranian national from a street in Al-Shiyah this afternoon and handed him over to the Syrian intelligence services.

Agreement Sought on Inter-Palestinian Conflicts

Plan Unveiled

NC2105073988 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] An agreement was reached at dawn today among the seven Palestinian groups which have not participated in the bloody clashes taking place between the Fatah Movement and the dissidents, particularly in the Burj al-Barajinah camp. A cease-fire decision was put into effect at 1930 last night.

Their eight-point plan provides for the formation of a disengagement force from the seven groups which will restore to the pro-Syrian dissidents the positions which they lost to the Fatah Movement in the Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah camps.

The agreement further stipulates that its provisions will be referred to the disputants for their approval. The agreement will then be presented to the national forces and the Syrians, who will act as witnesses.

The agreement also provides for the withdrawal of the reinforcements which the dissidents brought to the vicinity of the camps, as well as for the simultaneous removal of the positions which the two sides established and for their handover to the seven groups.

The agreement was concluded among Nayif Hawatimah for the DFLP, George Habash for the PFLP, Ahmad Jibril for the PFLP-GC, 'Isam al-Qadi for the Al-Sa'iqah organization, Tal'at Ya'qub for the Palestine Liberation Front, Samir Ghawshah for the Popular Struggle Front, and Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] for the Fatah Revolutionary Council.

This plan comes in the wake of unprecedented clashes and shelling yesterday afternoon which claimed at least 8 dead and 61 wounded.

The pro-'Arafat Fatah group said after yesterday's battle that it captured the dissidents' last position in the Burj al-Barajinah camp. However, security reports do not speak of any change in the positions as a result of the recent battles.

Bassam Abu Sharif, the PLO chairman's political adviser, has accused mercenary factions of shelling and attempting to break into Burj al-Barajinah after all dissident elements had declared their return to the Palestinian legitimacy in the camps. Abu Sharif recalled the Shatila camp experience when 37 elements gave themselves up to the Palestinian leadership in the camps and it later turned out that they were not Palestinians. He said that the heavy shelling of the camps shows who the sources of the shelling are and demanded that Damascus use its influence with some factions to stop them.

Abu Sharif said that the PLO will not become bait for implementing the plans of others in Lebanon.

Clashes in Camps Ease

NC2205063188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The clashes between the mainstream Fatah and Fatah-the Uprising in Burj al-Barajinah Camp have eased. In two statements released yesterday, both sides declared their commitment to the eight-point agreement that was reached yesterday morning under the sponsorship of the factions which had not participated in the fighting. The agreement provides that mainstream Fatah hand over the positions it has captured from Fatah-the Uprising to a disengagement force charged with this task.

It has been learned from the Palestinian committee that an exchange of captives between the two sides, as stipulated in the agreement, took place in Burj al-Barajinah yesterday morning. Approximately 60 dissidents were released and the men of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah] released nine pro-'Arafat men.

Fighting in Shatila Resumes

NC2205183388 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] With regard to the inter-Palestinian struggle, after pro-'Arafat personnel and Fatah dissidents resumed fighting with rockets and machineguns in Shatila this afternoon, the joint Palestinian committee went to the camp at 1600, when the fighting had come to a halt. It has been learned that the committee is currently in contact with the two parties to ensure the release of prisoners and the deployment of joint security personnel to the positions which pro-'Arafat fighters recently captured.

The joint Palestinian committee had convened in Mar Ilyas this morning to work out a solution to the camps war.

Freed French Hostage Denies TIMES Story

AU2205144588 Paris AFP in English 1029 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Paris, May 22 (AFP)—Freed French hostage Jean-Paul Kauffmann on Sunday rejected reports by THE SUNDAY TIMES newspaper alleging he knew that Terry Waite and two fellow hostages in Beirut, British citizen John McCarthy and Irishman Brian Keenan, were still alive. Mr Kauffmann, a journalist, was freed along with two French diplomats on May 5.

He told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE he was "unable to give any information on foreign hostages."

"I only told THE SUNDAY TIMES journalist about my conditions of confinement and the attitude of the British Government towards its citizens in Lebanon," he said.

The weekly had quoted Mr Kauffman as saying: "The British hostages have been seen, and they are alive today. I'm sure of that," adding that he had seen a man he believed was Mr Waite through a keyhole during his own detention.

Mr Waite, a special envoy of the archbishop of Canterbury who had been in Beirut to try and negotiate the release of other hostages, disappeared in the city on January 20 last year.

Mr Kauffmann was also quoted as saying that Mr McCarthy, a journalist, had been seen by other hostages several months after he was abducted on April 17, 1986.

Mr Keenan, a teacher from Northern Ireland who holds an Irish passport, disappeared a week earlier.

Mr Kauffmann and the two diplomats released early this month were the last three French hostages held in Beirut. They had been held for almost three years.

Paper Discusses French, Korean Hostage Ransoms

JN2005174988 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1725 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 May (WAM) — Today's AL-ITTIHAD said that the captors of the South Korean diplomat, who was released in Beirut some time ago, received $20 million in exchange for his release. Citing informed Lebanese sources, the newspaper added that the captors of the three French hostages, who were released recently, received 150 million French francs in addition to $10 million.

The Lebanese sources added that those who paid the money strongly stressed the condition that the captors should not announce or disseminate any information on the amounts of money paid in the deal to release the hostages.

Vernon Walters Arrives in Damascus 20 May

JN2005203788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations, arrived in Damascus today.

Al-Asad Meets Walters

JN2105130788 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1210 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received before noon today Vernon Walters, U.S. permanent representative at the United Nations. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and William Eagleton, U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

They discussed the regional situation in its various aspects.

Al-Asad Receives Message From Iranian Envoy

JN2105105488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam. He received from him a message from 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It was reported by mistake that the Iranian official received by the president was Mohammad 'Ali Besharati. The correct name is Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

Lebanon's Fadlallah Reportedly Invited to Syria

JN2105070988 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0635 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 May (WAM)—AL-ITTIHAD has said that the Syrian leadership has addressed an urgent invitation to Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Hizballah in Lebanon, to visit Damascus to talk with President Hafiz al-Asad on the situation in the southern suburb of Beirut and the issue of the Syrian military entry into it.

CSSR Delegation Arrives, Holds Talks 23 May

JN2305133788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] A round of talks between a delegation from the Progressive National Front [PNF] headed by Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and PNF deputy chairman, and a delegation from the Czechoslovak National Front [CNF] headed by Comrade Tomas Travnicek, deputy chairman of the CNF, was held at the PNF headquarters. The talks were attended by the CSSR ambassador in Damascus.

The conferees reviewed the basic tasks of both fronts and their working programs. They also reviewed the role played by each front on both the domestic and foreign levels. The two sides also reviewed issues of common concern and ways to promote bilateral relations between the two fronts. In addition, they discussed ways to develop their joint action on both the regional and international arenas in the interest of the two friendly peoples, confront the designs of the imperialist and Zionist forces, and achieve a just peace in the Arab region and the world.

The head of the Czechoslovak delegation expressed his appreciation for the major and distinguished role assumed by Syria under struggling President Hafiz al-Asad in defending the issues of the Arab nation, resisting the imperialist and Zioinst schemes, and supporting indefinitely the persecuted peoples and the liberation movements that struggle for their freedom and independence.

The head of the guest delegation asserted his country's support for the just struggle of the Arab masses to liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

The CNF delegation arrived at Damascus Airport early this morning. It was received by Comrade Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and PNF deputy chairman, and some members of the front's Central Committee.

Paper Stresses Dialogue To Solve Lebanese Crisis

JN2205080888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In a commentary dealing with the situation in the Lebanese arena, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The basic enemies and agents have continuously tried to execute their conspiracy of dividing Lebanon, but Syria has confronted and prevented them from achieving their aims. In doing so, Syria has had to put up with a great deal. Syria has continued to cooperate with all sides in an effort to find common ground where all would meet to reach national accord to end the crisis forever and consequently entrench Lebanon's unity and Arab identity.

However, what used to happen was that an agreement signed today was broken the next day, if not on the same day. It has been established that the group that suffered from the national solution, the group that wagers on the Arab's enemy, is the same group that used to break an agreement and ruin any solution. This would happen due to some miscalculations on the part of one side or the other.

Despite all that has happened, Syria has never thought for one day of abandoning its pan-Arab role in Lebanon and has therefore a sacrificed a great deal. There is no need here to delve into this topic since everyone knows, especially our brothers in Lebanon, the size of the sacrifices offered and still being offered by Syria to end

the abnormal situation in Lebanon. Syria will continue with this policy until peace and security reign in Lebanon and the country is reunited in its people and lands.

We in Syria feel great pain at what is happening to the sons of the same trench because we believe that all our guns should be directed toward the basic enemy; our common enemy, the Zionist entity which is practicing the policy of aggression, expansion, oppression, and banishment against our kinfolk in the occupied homeland. There is no doubt that mistakes have been committed by this or that patriotic side, and the reason could be the difficult circumstances Lebanon is experiencing. This does not mean, however, that the solution lies in weapons, killing, and destruction. Constructive national dialogue must prevail, not the weapon of killing and destruction.

What everyone in the Lebanese arena should know is that the enemies of Lebanese unity and Arab identity, whether Zionist or hired agents, will use any means or method to intensify the local fighting, because that benefits them. Syria, which from the start of the crisis has shouldered the responsibility of helping the brothers in rectifying the situation and securing the unity of Lebanon and its Arab identity, will act as it did previously to try and spare Arab blood in confronting the enemies of the nation, especially the Zionist entity. The Lebanese crisis must end so that everyone will concentrate on confronting the Zionist enemy, liberating the land, and retrieving the lost rights.

U.S. Support for Israel Makes Shultz Tour Futile

PM2005135788 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 9 May 88 p 8

[Mustafa al-Faqir article: "Futile Tour"]

[Text] Informed U.S. circles have disclosed that Secretary George Shultz may return to the region after the Moscow summit with a view to continuing contacts over his proposals for a settlement. Although the revolution in the occupied territories has entered its 6th month, the situation is worsening daily, and more martyrs are falling, Israel is still adhering to its stand that rejects Palestinian rights, escalating repressive operations, and behaving as if Washington has no option but to submit to what is happening and cover up Zionist crimes.

In truth, so far the U.S. Administration has not taken up a single stand expressing opposition to Israeli policy. Washington has neither condemned the horrific crimes nor approached in the slightest the Palestinian rights, since it refuses to deal with the PLO. In addition, there have been no freezes in arms consignments to the Zionist state; in fact the opposite is true: Arms consignments have been pouring in and U.S. officials have made statements in favor of a firm alliance with Israel and of renewing the memorandum of strategic understanding.

All this proves that Washington is by no means thinking of curbing the aggressive policies of its ally, since it always tends to find excuses for Israel's barbaric attacks. This U.S. stand prompts us to question the seriousness and usefulness of any proposal Washington makes, especially as what has been presented to the Arabs so far constitutes nothing but old ideas already rejected in the past. These ideas serve Israel, not the Arab cause.

Although the Arabs have not closed the door to the U.S. secretary, thus expressing good intentions, Israel has closed the door to any plan characterized by justice. Actually it has even rejected U.S. ideas aimed at ultimately serving its existence. On every occasion the enemy's prime minister stresses his rejection of an international peace conference and his refusal to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories and recognize the Palestinian people's rights. It is evident that there is agreement between the two heads of the government, Shamir and Peres, on forcibly destroying the uprising in the occupied homeland.

Everyone knows that the enemy's war minister, Yitzhaq Rabin, is affiliated with the Labor Party and that it is Rabin who is leading the barbaric repressive operation and pursuing the policy of killing and annihilating Palestinian children. Rabin revealed his ugly racist face to the world when he pushed his forces into south Lebanon, destroying homes and property as well as wiping out entire villages. We all know that it was the Labor government that destroyed the Syrian town of Al-Qunaytirah—which is clear evidence of the Zionists' involvement in an organized crime.

If there is any disagreement between Peres and Shamir, it is on the details, not the essence. Both, as we have said, want to destroy the uprising of the Palestinian people by force. Both refuse to recognize any Palestinian rights. The horrific crimes being committed in the occupied territories reveal to the world the truth behind Zionism, which the United States sponsors and supplies with both funds and arms.

Thus, we can say that the expected Shultz tour will be no different from his previous tours. The U.S. secretary is bringing nothing new; he will continue to promote unacceptable ideas. Anything new must be preceded by a clear U.S. stand. But the United States still adopts Israel's policies and covers up its crimes. Despite all that has been committed, namely violation of human rights and attacks on international principles and charters, we have not heard a single word of condemnation!

Paper Cited on Egypt's Stand on 'Uprising'

JN2005072788 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 20 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH says: Once again, the Egyptian regime proves that it views the Palestinian Arab People's heroic uprising in the occupied homeland as a nightmare

that exhausts the shaky state of affairs in Egypt in its confrontation of the Egyptian masses and their nationalist forces. These masses and forces reject the Camp David accords and the other humiliating agreements stemming from them, which have made Egypt lose its dignity, national sovereignty, and Arab affiliation.

Through its fierce confrontation of the popular demonstrations held as an expression of the Egyptian masses' support for the Palestinian people's struggle and their rejection and condemnation of the Zionist terrorist practices against the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories, the Egyptian regime is demonstrating the extent of its fear of the popular resurgence brought about by the revolution of our people in the occupied homeland. The Egyptian regime is intensifying its repressive measures to prevent the demonstrations of support for the heroic uprising.

The Arab masses in Egypt have expressed their support for the uprising in more than one way. Egyptian progressive forces have emphasized the need to sever diplomatic relations between the Egyptian regime and Israel and have called for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador and the abrogation of the Camp David accords.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The Egyptian regime was among the first to propose an initiative to halt the uprising and to pave the way to new talks within the framework of the so-called autonomy for the Palestinians that was contained in the Camp David accords. The Egyptian regime's action was an early attempt to circumvent the uprising. In view of the fact that the uprising is pursuing its course with firmness and determination to achieve the objective of ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, the Egyptian regime finds itself again among those which the heroic uprising has placed in a difficult dilemma, particularly Israel and the United States, which have assumed the task of putting forth initiatives that seek to end the uprising, abort its results, and circumvent it.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Within this context, the Egyptian regime tries to cover up for the deficiencies of the Camp David accords, which have shackled Egypt, paralyzed its national forces, and canceled its pan-Arab role in view of the commitments the Egyptian regime has made to the two Camp David parties. These commitments consist of quelling any popular move that will constitute an extension of the Arab masses' struggle in the Arab arena.

Briefs

New Media Directors

Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has decided to appoint 'Abd al-Nabi Hijazi as the director general of the Syrian Radio and Television Corporation, Safwan Ghanim as the director general of the Radio Station, Mazin Sabbagh as the director general of the Information Authority, and Ahmad Madinah, a former ambassador, as the director of the Distribution Authority. More appointments will be announced soon. [Text] [*JN2305070688 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 12 May 88 p 9*]

Afghanistan

Najibullah Interviewed by Indian, Canadian TV

LD2105195188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Today Esteemed Najibullah received two television teams from the Republic of India for an interview. He answered journalists' questions at the presidential headquarters.

According to another report, this morning in the presidential headquarters Esteemed Najibullah received a CBC television team from Canada and answered their questions.

Downplays Zahir Shah Role

BK2105151188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1503 GMT 21 May 88

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, May 21 (AFP)—Afghan President Najibullah Saturday appeared to rule out the possibility of former King Zahir Shah acting as a unifying force in a future Afghan coalition government.

"In the 10 years of (communist) revolution, all the forces in Afghanistan have been polarised," Mr. Najibullah said at a 40-minute meeting with Indian journalists here.

Mr. Najibullah was answering a question on whether he envisaged a role for the ex-king—who many observers say could act as a unifying force in bitterly-divided Afghanistan—in a future coalition government.

"There is no imaginary force outside this polarisation," he said in a reference to the division between supporters of his ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and Moslem rebels fighting to topple it.

While appearing to rule out a role for Zahir Shah, Mr. Najibullah at the same time invited "moderate circles" of mujahidin "supporters" of the ex-king to come to Afghanistan and work towards forming a coalition government.

Observers said Mr. Najibullah's statement was a clear hardening of his previous stance. A fortnight ago, he told a press conference in New Delhi that Zahir Shah was welcome back to Kabul, but rejected a suggestion that he step down to make way for the former king.

But Zahir Shah, who was deposed in 1973 and lives in exile in Rome, has refused to return to join a government dominated by the Soviet-backed PDPA.

"We have decided to give up monopoly over power, but that does not mean we are giving up power. We will stay in government," the president said.

"Who would hold the dominant position in a possible coalition government will be decided on the basis of the social and pobitical base of constituents," he added.

The Pakistan-based mujahidin have rejected Mr. Najibullah's policy of national reconciliation, as well as the April 14 Geneva accords on the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

The accords, signed with the United States and the Soviet Union as guarantors, provide for mutual non-interference and non-intervention by Afghanistan and Pakistan in each other's internal affairs.

Mr. Najibullah called upon the United States to stop arming the mujahidin.

"We expect the United States, as a civilised country and as a member of the United Nations Security Council, to abide by the Geneva accords which it has signed as a guarantor," he said.

"If the United States continues to arm the rebels, international agreements will not have any value. The U.S. guarantees will be without any value," he added.

If the United States and Pakistan adhered to the accords, he said he was confident that his armed forces could defend the country against the mujahidin.

Remarks on PDPA's Role

BK2205161988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The Afghan president, Dr Najibullah, has said India can help hasten the formation of a coalition government in Kabul following the withdrawal of the Soviet troops. Speaking to a group of Indian journalists yesterday he said New Delhi can also help in the realization of unity and peace in Afghanistan.

Dr Najibullah said that even as the last batch of Soviet troops in eastern Jalalabad is scheduled to leave shortly, the Afghan security forces have twice ambushed rebel camps in the area and inflicted casualties, besides seizing arms and ammunition. Referring to the process of national reconciliation launched by his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Dr Najibullah said while the party intends to give up monopoly of power, it does not mean that it is giving up power.

3d Soviet Convoy Arrives in Kabul From Jalalabad

BK2205162088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 22 (AFP)—Some 1,000 Soviet troops travelling in a convoy of about 2,000 armoured vehicles arrived here Sunday from the eastern garrison town of Jalalabad on their way home, witnesses said.

The convoy is expected to reach the Afghan-Soviet border Wednesday, via the Salang highway, officials said, adding that it was the third Soviet column to leave *Jalalabad, 150 kilometres (90 miles)* east of here, since Moscow started withdrawing its troops from the country on May 15.

No official figures for the number of troops to have left Jalalabad were available.

The first convoy left the garrison town May 15, while a second left Jalalabad Tuesday and reportedly arrived in the Soviet Union on Saturday.

Afghan President Najibullah said Saturday that the last of the Soviet troops in Jalalabad would start leaving the eastern town on Sunday, contradicting earlier assertions by Soviet and Afghan officials that the town had been completely handed over to Afghan Government forces.

Moscow plans to withdraw a quarter of its estimated 115,000 troops from the country ahead of the Moscow summit meeting May 29 between U.S President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Half the Soviet forces are scheduled to leave Afghanistan by mid-August and the rest by February 15, 1989 at the latest under the terms of the Afghan peace accord, signed April 14 in Geneva by Islamabad and Kabul.

3d Memorandum on Pakistani Violation of Accords
LD2305125788 Kabul BAKHTAR in Pashto 1130 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Kabul, 23 May (BAKHTAR)—The third memorandum of the Republic of Afghanistan on the Pakistani Government's violation of the Geneva accords was handed over yesterday, 22 May 1988, to the UN good offices mission in Kabul by the Republic of Afghanistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs office for coordination.

In this memorandum, more information has been given in connection with the situation and type of activities of the armed extremists stationed in Pakistan. The memorandom requests the UN good offices mission to carry out a necessary assessment in this regard and to draw the attention of the Pakistani authorities to closely observe the commitments entailed in the Geneva accords and to prevent further violations.

'Cosmetic' Cabinet Reshuffle Expected 'This Week'
BK2205112688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 22 May 88

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] Kabul, May 22 (AFP)—President Najibullah is expected to announce a cabinet reshuffle this week, with Deputy Premier Muhammad Hasan Sharq widely tipped to become the next prime minister, official sources said here Sunday.

The sources said Mr. Najibullah would present a new cabinet to the National Assembly, expected to meet this week for the first time since the Soviet-backed People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) came to power 10 years ago.

They said the new National Assembly, which the Kabul government claims has been elected for the first time in Afghan history through "direct, universal and democratic" franchise, would pass a vote of confidence in the cabinet.

Mr. Sharq, one of seven deputy premiers and a non-PDPA member, is expected to replace Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, who has been prime minister since June 1981.

The sources expected more non-PDPA politicians to be included in the reshuffled cabinet, but ruled out the possibility of the party shedding real positions of power.

"Any changes in a reshuffle will be cosmetic," a government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

He said 63-year old Mr. Sharq's biggest qualification, apart from his reputation as an able administrator, was that he was a non-PDPA member.

"But he is at the same time close to the party leadership," the source said, adding that his appointment as premier would be aimed at backing up Mr. Najibullah's claimed intention of forming a broad-based government.

"The party wants to show it is ready to give up some positions, but in reality this is not true," he added.

Mr. Najibullah's appeals to the mujahidin rebels to accept his national reconciliation policy and join a PDPA-led coalition govenment have been rejected by the Pakistan-based resistance alliance.

He had said the PDPA was even ready to discuss the prime minister's post with the U.S.-backed rebels and promised to publish a list of positions on offer.

But he told a group of Indian journalists Saturday that the PDPA had "decided to give up monopoly over power, but that does not mean we are giving up power."

The suave, soft-spoken Mr. Sharq, who today controls the department overseeing rehabilitation of Afghan refugees, attended a military high school and graduated with a degree in medicine from Kabul University.

He headed the Prime Minister's Secretariat from 1953 to 1963 and practised medicine for the next 10 years.

He became first deputy prime minister in 1973, when the monarchy was toppled, and was a member of then President Muhammad Daud's Central Committee.

Mr. Sharq was ambassador to Japan in 1977-78 when the PDPA overthrew Mr. Daud's regime. He was appointed ambassador to India in May 1980—a post he held until about 18 months ago.

Other candidates for prime minister are Deputy Premier Amanuddin 'Amin and Trade Minister Muhammad Khan Jalalar—both non-PDPA members—but official sources and Western diplomats agreed that Mr. Sharq was the most likely choice.

They added however that his job may not be without difficulties.

"It is to be seen how he manages to control PDPA members of the cabinet," the official source said. "And whether PDPA members will like a non-party prime minister is doubtful."

Mr. Najibullah denied Saturday that "concessions" offered to non-party members and opposition groups would cause friction within the party.

The government claims talks are going on with some mujahidin commanders fighting within Afghanistan on a possible role for the rebels in a coalition government. Asian diplomatic sources here say Ahmad Shah Masud, the "lion of Panjsher," refused the post of deputy premier, but agreed to keep talking.

National Assembly Delegates Urged To Register

LD1905181388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 May 88

[Text] Here is an announcement by the Department of National Assembly Affairs of the Presidency;

We hereby inform all elected representatives to the National Assembly of the Republic of Afghanistan, including senators and representatives, to report to the Department of National Assembly affairs of the Presidency to register their credentials. They are to bring with them their biography and two photographs on 20, 21, and 22 May 1988, or call telephone number 33876 or 33875 in this office.

Armed Forces Operations Against 'Extremists'

Group 'Crushed' in Kabul

LD2205032788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] In continuation of the Armed Forces' activities in Kabul Province, terrorists belonging to a warmongering extremist group who wanted to disrupt the peaceful life of people in Shakar Darreh district by causing fear and terror, were crushed.

The BIA military correspondent reports that during these operations 27 criminals were crushed and the hideout of the warmongering extremists was destroyed in the village of [name indistinct], Shakar Darreh district, Kabul Province.

Plot 'Foiled' in Nangarhar

LD2205205688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that the country's security forces have prevented an explosion in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar Province.

The report adds that elements belonging to extremist groups planted four mines in a crowded road in 'Ali Kheyl, Jalalabad, wanting to cause loss of life and material damage. However, as a result of the people's cooperation with the security forces, their criminal plan was discovered and foiled.

Faryab, Badghis Groups Crushed

LD2205210388 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that in the course of activity that took place at the request of the people of Faryab, 16 terrorists were crushed and an extremist hideout in the region of [name indistinct], Faryab Province, was destroyed.

As a result of this activity, 5 light machineguns, 16 shells for recoilless guns with ammunition, and a number of antipersonnel and antivehicle mines were seized.

A report from Badghis Province states that a 12-man terrorist group that was headquartered in (Band-i Gholak) region and disrupting the peaceful life of the people, recently was crushed by the country's Armed Forces at the request of the people of that region. A number of weapons were siezed from them.

According to another report, a five-man extremist group led by (Nader Shah), which had been plundering the people's property in Konarha Province, was captured with its weapons yesterday by country's Armed Forces.

'Extremists' Shell Residential Areas in Sarkani

LD2005164188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] The military section of BIA reports that the criminal extremists, without considering the holiness of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, shelled residential areas of Sarkani District, Konarha Province with heavy weapons. As a result of the extremists' savage action, two children were martyred and another five persons were seriously injured. Material losses were suffered by a number of our compatriots.

Attack Ghazni 20 May

LD2105174688 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that criminal extremist groups sprayed heavy machinegun fire over residential areas of Ghazni on the 4th night of 'Id al-Fitr [20 May]

As a result of this savage action by the extremist elements, two children were martyred and damage was inflicted on the communal mosque of [name indistinct] of that city.

Mujahidin Combat Operations, Successes Reported

Block Roads to Jalalabad

OW2205114088 Beijing XINHUA in English 0801 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 21 (XINHUA)—Afghan Muslim guerrillas have blocked all roads leading to Jalalabad, capital of Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province bordering Pakistan, a resistance source confirmed here today.

The source said that the step was taken after the withdrawal of the first batch of over 1,200 Soviet troops from the provincial capital on May 15 when the Geneva agreement came into effect.

Under the U.N.-mediated Geneva agreement signed by Pakistan and the Moscow-installed Kabul regime on April 14, the Soviet Union is to withdraw 50 percent of its troops from Afghanistan within the first three months starting on May 15 and the rest in the six months following.

The source said that at the time the impression was given by the Soviet authorities that the entire Jalalabad garrison, one of the largest in eastern Afghanistan, would be evacuated. However, he noted, only a small number was pulled out and more troops still remain in the garrison.

The Afghan resistance forces on May 15 allowed the first Soviet contingent to pass without any real attempt to attack them in the hope that the garrison would be evacuated totally.

Earlier, the Afghan guerrillas captured Jaji garrison in Paktia Province on May 12. The garrison, 20 kilometers from the Afghan-Pakistan border, was abandoned by the Kabul troops on May 9.

Jaji was reportedly among the four places to be selected for the seat of an interim government of Afghanistan proposed by the seven-party alliance of Afghan mujahidin (holy-war fighters).

The Afghan guerrillas have increased their attacks on the Soviet-Kabul troops and their military installations throughout Afghanistan after the signing of the Geneva agreement last month. During the past few weeks, about 13 districts and 50 military posts in the country have come under the control of the Afghan guerrillas.

The source also said that about 200 Kabul troops have defected to the Afghan resistance forces in Kabul Province bordering Pakistan recently.

Take Key Garrison in Panjsher

BK2205121088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1152 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 22 (AFP)—Afghan guerrillas have seized a key garrison in the northeastern Panjsher Valley in a new round of fighting in the area coinciding with the start of a Soviet troop pullout, rebel sources said Sunday.

The sources here also said mujahidin were almost in control of Baghlan city further west after 500 Afghan militiamen previously loyal to the Kabul regime switched sides.

Rebels with the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami group took the garrison of Tangi Bala after a one-hour attack on May 15, the first day of a gradual Soviet pullout from Afghanistan under the April 14 Geneva accords.

Sixty government troops were killed in the attack and 42 were captured, Jamiyat-e Eslami sources said, adding that some troops managed to escape.

Tangi Bala was manned by the Afghan Army's 64th Regiment and included a KHAD security police centre, they said.

Government troops launched a counter-offensive the following day but failed to take back the garrison, though the rebels suffered more than a dozen casualties, the sources said.

The mujahidin seized two tanks and two armoured personnel carriers in the attack on Tangi Bala, as well as four 76-mm howitzer guns, one mortar, 11 heavy machine guns and several hundred AK-47 assault rifles, they said.

The attack launched by Mahmud Khan—deputising for the main rebel commander in the valley Ahmed Shah Mas'ud—was the first fighting in the strategic Panjsher Valley for several months, the sources said.

The rebels, who already hold the upper half of the area, are now planning to attack the Kabul regime's bases at Rokhah and Onab at the mouth of the valley, which they had lost in a Soviet-Afghan offensive in 1986, the sources said.

A spokesman for Ahmed Shah Mas'ud said operations had begun to drive some 10,000 Soviet and Afghan troops out of the Panjsher valley.

In neighbouring Baghlan Province, some 500 Afghan militiamen have joined the mujahidin, including 80 late last week at two posts near Baghlan city, rebel sources said.

They said Baghlan city was now almost under the control of the mujahidin.

Capture Paktia Munitions Depot

BK2205160488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1549 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 22 (AFP)—Afghan rebels have captured a large munitions depot in the eastern Paktia Province in an attack which left 18 Afghan troops dead and many others wounded, resistance sources said here Sunday.

Five rebels died and nine were wounded in the operation launched in Wazah Khawah district on May 7 by 3,000 mujahidin guerrillas, the sources said.

The rebels seized two tanks, two trucks, seven mortars, four artillery guns, three anti-aircraft guns, six machine guns, 150 Kalashnikovs, five wireless sets, one petrol reservoir, 23 barrels of diesel, the sources said.

Ammunition seized included 300,00 mortar shells, 400,000 anti-aircraft rounds, 350,000 Kalashnikov bullets and 60,000 artillery rounds, they said.

Meanwhile, families of government officers were being evacuated from the nearby garrison town of Khowst, liberated late last year by Soviet-Afghan troops after an eight-year rebel siege, the sources said.

Soviet troops began on May 15 a nine-month withdrawal from Afghanistan under accords signed in Geneva last month. The rebels have vowed to continue fighting to overthrow the Soviet-backed Kabul regime.

Kill 18 Soviet Troops in Herat

LD2205154888 Tehran IRNA in English 1500 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Mashhad, Khorassan Province, May 22, IRNA—In a series of attacks upon positions of Soviet occupying forces in Herat Province, Afghan mujahidin killed ten enemy troops, and destroyed five personnel carriers and command jeeps.

Eight Russian soldiers were also killed in the course of last week's mujahidin attacks in the Kamar Kala region along Herat-Towraghondi expressway.

Head of the Afghan communist party in Herat was revolutionarily executed by the Afghan mujahidin.

AFP Interviews Mujahidin Field Commander

BK2205113988 Hong Kong AFP in English 1123 GMT 22 May 88

[By Alain Boebion]

[Text] Patan, Afghanistan, May 22 (AFP)—The mujahidin seem to be having problems in Jaji, and gunfire from the city can still be heard in this rebel camp several days after the rebels claimed to have taken the city.

The Afghan Army, which is still receiving support from the Soviet Air Force, and the mujahidin are fighting in the suburbs of Jaji, a garrison town that rebel sources claimed Monday to have captured, the resistance told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

The town is several kilometers from here as the crow flies, but the sound of artillery fire reverberates in the mountains, giving the impression that the fighting is close at hand.

The resistance seems to be experiencing difficulties in this area where Afghan and Soviet troops have left thousands of hidden mines, observers said.

Mujahidin commander Doctor Shah Wali 'Aziz, sitting cross-legged in a Saudi Red Cross tent hidden deep in this valley in the Chamkani region, acknowledged in front of his men that the "the situation is difficult."

Dr 'Aziz, who commands the mujahidin who control the north and east of the border province of Paktia, was speaking before about 10 fighters who appeared to be unit commanders who had come to make their reports.

Still upset by the death last week of Commander Habibullah, killed with sixteen of his men by a mine at the edge of the town of Chamkani several kilometers away, Dr 'Aziz called on them to pray for the man who was "the symbol of the united resistance."

A member of the Yunis Khalis (moderate fundamentalist) faction of the (Islamic Party), commander Habibullah was the regional commander of the seven fundamentalists and more moderate traditionalist Moslem groups that make up the rebel alliance.

Pointing to the remains of a dark red Toyota which Mr Habibullah was driving, Dr 'Aziz said he regretted that "the unity of the mujahidin in the field is not reflected in Peshawar" where the political chiefs of the resistance groups are based.

The car had been brought back here and placed alongside hundreds of cases of munitions.

Dr 'Aziz, who said he was 35 but looked at least five years older, described himself as a simple fighter for the Hezb-e Eslami Khalis faction and complained about the "lack of unity of the politicians."

He was wearing a traditional beige shalwar kammiz (long shirt and baggy trousers) with a felt beret.

"In the field, all the commanders are working together to rapidly reach Kabul," he said. Asked how long that would take, Dr 'Aziz answered "one, two, maybe three months."

"This will depend also on the Russians," he said in almost perfect English. "We think that Najibullah will not last much longer in Kabul. But would the Soviets not want to attempt to put someone else in his place?"

"For us, there is no question of the return of the former King Zahir Shah. We don't want him," he added, referring to the monarch in exile in Rome

"We will establish an Islamic government in Kabul that will have for its one and only law the Koran and we will also ask the three million refugees to return," he added, referring to the refugees who have spent almost 10 years in camps in Pakistan.

When asked about the possible formation of a provisional Islamic government in Afghan territory, as proposed by politicians in Peshawar, Dr 'Aziz said: "We don't see the need."

"Our goal is Kabul" said Dr 'Aziz, who taught medicine for nine years in Kabul, adding that the provisional government plan is the idea of "men sitting behind desks in Peshawar." [sentence as received]

Bangladesh

Police Halt Multireligious Rally 22 May

BK2205093288 Hong Kong AFP in English 0906 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Dhaka, May 22 (AFP)—Riot police on Sunday prevented some 1,000 people from marching on the Bangladesh Parliament to protest a government bill which would declare Islam the state religion, witnesses and police said.

Police stopped the march organised by the newly-formed Action Council of Minority Hindus, Buddhists and Christians some three kilometers (two miles) from Parliament House but allowed a six-member deputation to deliver a memorandum to the parliamentary speaker.

The memorandum called for the withdrawal of the controversial bill to declare Islam the state religion, which was put before Parliament early this month.

"If Islam is declared the only religion of Bangladesh, it will result in destroying the natural unity, alienate members of other communities from the mainstream of national life and encourage minorities to take up a separatist stand threatening national integrity," the memorandum said.

There were no reports of clashes or violence.

The protesters earlier held a rally in Dhaka where speakers from the minority communities said that the bill was an attempt to divide the nation in the name of religion.

One speaker said they would call for resistance to the bill if the government refused to scrap it.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has said that Bangladesh needs to proclaim Islam as the state religion to give this predominantly Moslem nation an identity in the world, but stressed that his proposal would not affect the rights and privileges of the minority communities.

Bangladesh's major opposition parties have said that the bill presented to Parliament on May 11 by the ruling Jatiya Party is uncalled for and have threatened a protest campaign if the government goes ahead with it.

More than 86 percent of Bangladesh's 105 million people are Moslems.

India

High-Level Meeting Considers Antiterrorist Steps

BK2105132488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] A high-level meeting in New Delhi presided over by the prime minister considered a number of measures to tackle terrorism in Punjab following the latest developments in Amritsar. Briefing newsmen, an official spokesman said changes in the existing Arms Act were considered to provide deterrent punishment for carrying unlicensed weapons. Changes in the prevailing laws were also considered to prevent misuse of religious places and storage of arms and other undesirable materials like drugs there.

The spokesman said that the SGPC has been asked by the government to give an undertaking in writing that the Golden Temple will not be allowed to be used as a sanctuary for the terrorists and kept free of arms and ammunition after it is handed over to them. The spokesman regretted that these assurances have not been given by the SGPC so far. However, the district administration is in touch with the SGPC on this matter.

Further Reportage on Situation at Golden Temple

Cleanup Operations Completed

BK2105034088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] In Amritsar, the kar seva [voluntary service] of the parikrama [walkway around the Golden Temple] and the Harmandir Saheb in the Golden Temple has been completed. The cleaning work was undertaken yesterday by a voluntary religious organization. All efforts are being

made to repair the electricity lines in the Golden Temple damaged by the militants. An official spokesman of the Guru Singh Sabha told our Amritsar correspondent that the rituals of the temple are expected to start tomorrow morning.

The union home minister, Mr Buta Singh, who visited the Golden Temple complex yesterday asked the SGPC to make sure that the Golden Temple is kept free of arms, ammunition, and drugs. He also sought an assurance that the SGPC will not give shelter to terrorists in the temple. The SGPC, however, refused to give such an undertaking.

Temple Sanctity Restored

BK2205053888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The sanctity of Golden Temple at Amritsar was restored early this morning. The hukumnama [edict] was sought from the sacred Guru Granth Saheb [Sikh holy book] by Giani Mohan Singh, one of the four priests of the temple. The traditional rituals began with the dusting and washing of the temple with milk and holy water from the sarovar [holy tank] by the sevak jatha ishnan [volunteers] led by Giani Amar Singh. Later, the holy book was brought in a golden palanquin by Sikh devotees to the temple. After seeking the hukumnama the sabadh kirtan [singing of religious hymns] began. Some devotees were allowed by the district administration to pay obeisance at the temple despite the curfew around the complex.

Five persons were shot dead by terrorists in Punjab last night. One terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces.

Temple To Reopen for Rituals

BK2205125688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The Golden Temple is being opened for devotees from tomorrow morning. The entry of the devotees will be from the Municipal Corporation Office onwards through Ghanta Ghar [clock tower] Gate. Disclosing this to newsmen in Amritsar this evening the deputy commissioner, Mr Sarabjit Singh, said the devotees will be allowed to visit the Golden Temple from 0400 [2230 GMT] to 0600, 1000 to 1400 and from 1700 to 1900. He said the night curfew in the walled city is being lifted from tonight. The curfew in the 300-meter area around the Golden Temple will, however, continue.

The Punjab governor, Mr Siddhartha Shankar Ray, has said it is absolutely necessary that the Golden Temple is never again allowed to become a sanctuary for terrorists, secessionists, and antinational elements. In a statement in Chandigarh today, he said the SGPC for some time past has failed to safeguard the sanctity of the shrine from the onslaughts of terrorists. Mr Ray said the deputy commissioner of Amritsar has asked the SGPC to agree in writing to take certain steps to ensure the sanctity of the temple. The governor also said further discussions will be held and decisions taken after their reply is received.

Controversy Over Rituals

BK2205144688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1437 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Amritsar, India, May 22 (AFP)—Solemn Sikh rituals resumed in the battle-scarred Golden Temple Sunday, surrounded by controversy and performed by a priest released from jail for the occasion, witnesses said.

Resumption of the "Maryada" took place before dawn with a recital of hymns and the bathing of the temple's inner sanctum, the Harmindar Sahib, with milk and water, they said.

The solemn pre-dawn occasion was marred by arguments between the government and the management committee of the temple, Sikhdom's holiest shrine and the scene of a 10-day siege that ended Wednesday, witnesses said.

The Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SPGC), which runs Sikh shrines, had accused the government of playing politics and flouting tradition, while the government had accused the SPGC of trying to delay the Maryada, observers said.

The two-day argument, which ended late Saturday, had dragged out the interruption in ceremonies at the temple to 13 days. In contrast, the Maryada resumed five days after Operation Bluestar, the 1984 Army assault on the temple that left 650 people dead by official count.

Authorities were flouting tradition by refusing the committee's demand for the release of head priest Giani Pooran Singh and a fellow priest for the ceremonies, an SPGC spokesman said at a press conference Saturday. The ceremonies were finally conducted by Giani Mohan Singh, released from Patiala jail, who arrived 40 minutes late, witnesses said.

Union Home Minister Buta Singh, whom observers said was already ruffled by the committee's earlier refusal to guarantee it would keep the temple free of weapons in the future, had accused the SPGC of obstruction. However, the committee would have no objection if the government would itself undertake to keep the temple free of weapons, the SPGC spokesman said.

The committee would not allow any residential accommodation in the inner levels of the temple, where armed militants and their families sought sanctuary for months before the siege, he added. He added that the SPGC had agreed to demolish all the rooms lining the marble walkway round the temple's holy pond to guard against future "misuse."

The spokesman stood firm on the SPGC's stand that it would not be responsible for vetting worshippers for weapons, nor could it screen them for possible militants.

Late Sunday the battle appeared far from over.

The Amritsar administration demanded assurances from the SPGC, and Punjab Governor Siddhartha Shankar Ray issued a statement Sunday evening saying he was not out to "decry or dislodge any institution," but added that the temple's serenity and sanctity must be maintained. "It is absolutely necessary that the Golden Temple never again be allowed to become a sanctuary for anti-nationals, secessionists and terrorists," he said.

Late Sunday Amritsar Deputy Commissioner Sarabjit Singh, administrative chief of Amritsar District, announced that the authorities had ruled out an early withdrawal of security forces from around the Golden Temple.

Mr. Sarabjit Singh told reporters that a withdrawal was not possible unless the SPGC assumed responsibility for keeping the temple clear of terrorists and militants. But he said that a curfew imposed on the walled city surrounding the temple complex would be lifted Sunday night with the proviso that it could be reimposed in time of need.

Selectively relaxing the indefinite curfew in areas within a 300-metre radius of the walls of the complex would be considered, he said, adding that visits to the temple by devotees Monday would be supervised by the city administration.

Governor on Sikh 'Terrorists'

BK2205165688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The Golden Temple is being opened to devotees from tomorrow morning. The entry of the devotees will be from the municipal corporation office onwards through Ghanta Ghar Gate. Disclosing this to newsmen in Amritsar this evening, the deputy commissioner, Mr Sarabjit Singh, said the devotees will be allowed to visit the Golden Temple from 0400 [2230 GMT] to 0600, 1000 to 1400 and from 1700 to 1900. In Amritsar, the night curfew has been lifted. However, the curfew in the 300-meter area around the Golden Temple will continue.

The deputy commissioner, along with senior police officials made an on-the-spot inspection of this area this evening. Later he told our correspondent that from tomorrow morning curfew will be lifted from Bazaar Khatiyan and Bazaar Papron. This area, including two bazaars, is under a 24-hour curfew.

The Punjab governor, Mr S.S. Ray, has said it is absolutely necessary that the Golden Temple is never again allowed to become a sanctuary for terrorists, secessionists, and antinational elements. In a statement in Chandigarh today, he said the SGPC in recent times has failed to safeguard the sanctity of the shrine from the onslaught of the terrorists. He said the deputy commissioner of Amritsar has asked the SGPC to agree in writing to take certain steps to ensure the sanctity of the temple. The governor also said further discussions will be held and decisions taken after their reply is received. Mr Ray clarified that the only aim of the government is to ensure maintenance of serenity and sanctity of the Golden Temple. He said the government does not intend to decry or dislodge any institution.

The deputy commissioner of Amritsar in his letter has asked the SGPC to convey their consent in writing for maintenance of rituals at the Golden Temple under all circumstances. He also asked the SGPC to agree to the steps to be taken by the government to prevent the entry into the Golden Temple complex of terrorists or illegal weapons. The SGPC has also been asked to agree for demolition of all rooms in the parikrama [walkway around the Golden Temple] and fortifications erected by the terrorists.

The Akali Dal-Longowal today withdrew its plan of defying prohibitory orders near Raj Bhavan [governor's house] in Chandigarh, following the restoration of rituals at the Golden Temple from today.

19 Killed in Punjab 'Terrorist'-Related Acts

BK2105132788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 21 May

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Elsewhere in the state, 19 persons have been gunned down by the terrorists in separate incidents since last night. Nine laborers were shot dead in village Gujarpur of Amritsar District. The victims were sleeping after a day's hard work when the terrorists struck. Another laborer was done to death by terrorists in village Panchsa in Kapurthala District. In Faridkot District, terrorists opened indiscriminate fire in the grain market of village Kotsukia last night, claiming four innocent lives. Terrorists gunned down a couple in village Nathni near Batala in Gurdaspur District. Another couple was killed in village Mundekhera in Patiala District. In Bhatinda, terrorists shot dead Subinspector Harbhajan Singh in his house last night.

A general alert has been sounded in Jammu and Kashmir in the wake of fresh spurt in terrorist activities. Passengers of the interstate bus stands are being screened. Elaborate security arrangements have also been made near the rail track on the Jammu-Pathankot route.

Two intruders from Pakistan were killed in an encounter with the Border Security Force at Arnia in Ranbirsinghpura sector of Jammu and Kashmir last night. Another Pakistani national was nabbed and he is being interrogated. Some incriminating documents were recovered from him.

More Forces Sent To Increase Punjab Security

BK2105150388 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Four more companies of the security forces are being sent to Punjab to strengthen the security arrangements. Talking to newsmen in Amritsar this evening, the director general of police, Mr K.P.S. Gill, said security arrangements in Amritsar and Pathankot have been tightened. Mr Gill said arrangements have also been made to restore recitation of gurvani and sabadh kirtan [Sikh hymns] from Golden Temple from early morning tomorrow and other rituals will commence after midnight tonight.

All laborer settlements and construction sites in Punjab will be provided armed pickets to give security to migrant laborers in view of the recent terrorist violence against them. Mobile patrolling has also been intensified in the areas where construction work is in progress.

Meanwhile, several political and religious leaders have condemned yesterday's bomb blast incident in Pathankot in which seven persons were killed. The Himachal Pradesh chief minister, Mr Virbhadra Singh, said a detailed plan has been drawn up to provide security to passengers traveling in state roadways buses. He also announced an ex-gratia relief of 10,000 rupees each to the families of the victims of the bomb blast.

The president of the All India Shiromani Akali Dal-Master Tara Singh, Jathedar Ajaib Singh Daler, has appealed to the people of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to remain peaceful and not to be misled by disruptive forces.

3 Killed in Punjab Railway Station Blast

BK2205090288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, 3 persons were killed and 30 injured in a bomb explosion at the Ludhiana railway station this morning. One person died on the spot and two on way to the hospital. The blast took place near the second class booking window.

Auranagabad Situation 'Under Control'; 23 Dead

BK2005161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] In Maharashtra, the situation in Aurangabad, Paithan, and Bidkin is reported to be under control. Addressing a news conference at Aurangabad this evening, the deputy inspector general of police and Aurangabad District collector said that, in all, 23 persons died in violence and police firing. Over 700 persons have been rounded up in these places.

Indefinite curfew at Aurangabad and Paithan was relaxed for 2 hours today. Two stabbing incidents took place during the relaxation period in Aurangabad.

Further Reports of Darjeeling Violence Noted

BK2205085888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] More reports of violence have been received from Darjeeling hill areas since last night. Two CPI-M supporters, including an 8-year old boy, died in clashes between CPI-M and GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] supporters at Kolbang Basti under Phool Bazaar police station in Darjeeling subdivision last night.

The district magistrate told our correspondent that a large number of GNLF supporters attacked Sirsi village also under Phool Bazaar police station and burnt down 10 houses belonging to the CPI-M supporters. GNLF militants attacked the residence of SP [Superintendent of Police] Darjeeling, Mr P.K. Sahay, and threw a bomb. There is no report of any damage.

State Minister Threatened

BK2205162888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] In West Bengal, the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] militants today made an attempt on the life of the state hill affairs minister, Mr Tawang Dawa Lama. Mr Lama was on his way to Kolbong Basti where two CPI-M supporters were killed by the militants yesterday. The superintendent of police Darjeeling told our Kurseong correspondent that the minister escaped unhurt. The security men accompanying the minister returned tHe fire, in which one militant was killed. GNLF activists threw a bomb at the general post office building in Darjeeling today. Police arrested one person in this connection.

Its supporters attacked Sirsi village and burned down 10 houses belonging to CPI-M supporters. The residence of SP [Superintendent of Police] Darjeeling, Mr P.K. Sahay, was also attacked. There is no report of any damage.

Oil Exploration Contract Signed With Vietnam

BK1905154888 Hanoi VNA in English 1512 GMT 19 May 88

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 19—A production sharing contract on exploration and exploitation of petroleum in offshore southern Vietnam was signed here today between the Vietnam National Oil Company (Petro-Vietnam) and the Hydrocarbons India Limited (HIL) under the Oil and Natural Gas Commission of India. Signatories were Truong Thien, president of the Petro-Vietnam and director general of the General Oil and Gas Department of Vietnam, and S.C.N. Jatar, chairman and managing director of the HIL.

Under the 25-year contract, in addition to investing exploration capital, HIL will also train Vietnamese technical personnel in India.

The first surveys are expected in April 1989 and the first exploratory well is to be drilled in the following year. A team of Indian technical officers is already in Vietnam to get the necessary data.

The signing of this contract is in implementation of an intergovernmental Indo-Vietnamese agreement on cooperation in economy, science, and technology. A protocol was signed between the two countries in January 1987 by the two foreign ministers.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon

LD2005180588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 20 May 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 20 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] In continuing the discussion on the nature of the abhorrent and harmful arrogant powers I will talk today about an issue to which our eminent gracious imam referred to in his speech on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. Near the end of his speech his graciousness referred to a point, and although this point received worldwide coverage and found its way in one way or another into almost all countries' media, the depth and importance of the imam's point was lost on them and it came across as a joke, a dry piece of humor. This issue was reported in the U.S. media, but no one took the trouble to find out what the imam really meant, and maybe they did not understand.

The imam was referring to one of the important Koranic and Islamic chapters, one of the important traditions on the creation, and divine traditions in human societies. Very briefly, his graciousness said that the best prayer for people such as Reagan and his lackeys such as Saddam is for God to grant them death. Well, some people think this is actually a prayer. What is this prayer that asks God to grant them death? In addition, what kind of prayer can be said for Reagan? Does Reagan deserve to have prayers said for him? Do people pray for him? Two main questions occur to those uninformed about this Koranic principle. Some people thought this was a joke.

In the discussion I had which I had written down among the notes I wrote before the revolution—I mentioned that I took these notes in prison while studying the Koran—about the characteristics of the arrogant, and there is a section there which may be relevant, God willing, in explaining the remarks made by his graciousness the imam. I knew I would have to mention it one of these days in a sermon and felt that it might be appropriate to mention it now. This is one of the more important social issues. It is one of the fundamental Koranic chapters and one of the commentaries concerning the phenomena of this world and what happens to human beings in relation to strengths and weaknesses and domination. This should be studied.

There has always been a grudge in the hearts of the oppressed and the believers in history. We have heard this from prophets for thousands of years, and the Koran quotes them. The oppressed cannot understand why the Almighty permits the world's wealth, spheres of power, possessions, and resources to remain in the hands of tyrants such as Pharaoh, Nimrod, and the other great oppressors in history while the common people remain at the mercy of these kinds of people. [passage omitted]

Many people may even be asking this now: Why are so much power and so many resources concentrated in the hands of people such as Reagan, Saddam, and other renegades who are either servants or master?

That is one chapter. We have many verses in the Koran about this subject. If one were to study these verses it may amount to a proper book. It is a subject that needs many explanations, interpretations, and articles. I have noted down four or five verses that I will read to you. This issue was raised and was relevant during the time of the prophet himself and has also been raised by Muslims.

Of course, you have all heard these before, but what I want to do is to reach that point at which the imam graciously said: This is what the prayer should be. I wanted to prove that this prayer exists. Now I do not know whether it will be granted.

The fact that power is in the hands of Reagan is good neither for him, nor for society and all nations. But how has it come about that power has fallen into his hands? There is, after all, a natural law in the world: God created human beings as equals, as free and with a purpose. The divine hand of God was always to solve people's problems through miracles, accordingly. That is, the difficulties that people create for themselves. The fact that people like Reagan come to power, that people like the kings and rulers of the Persian Gulf come to control the people's wealth and lives, and that people like servants such as the shah, King Husayn, and King Hassan and others, come to dominate the people—this has not come about suddenly and is not the fault of just one person. It is a complicated situation in which both they themselves are at fault for having followed this rebellious path and the people are at fault too. People who have allowed this lot to dominate them and dare not breathe in the face of these usurpers do not deserve such a prayer. They do not deserve the miracle of God keeping them on earth.

This prayer exists, but as for when this prayer will be granted, it is the people themselves who should prepare the way for the fulfillment of this prayer. If we had not carried out the uprisings of the years 1977-78, and if we had fled to our houses whenever we saw human corpses, it would have been impossible to ever rid ourselves from

the filthy Pahlavi rule. If the Palestinians were to wait 1,000 years in the hope that some external element would come and do something for them they would not be saved. Even if a foreign country were to come and save them, they would then be under the domination of that foreign country. A nation does not rescue itself thus. People should enter the arena themselves. You see how the world has been jolted just in the short time since the Palestinians began their struggle to save themselves. If the people of Iraq want to wait until we rescue them it is not clear what their fate will be, assuming that they are rescued. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Polls, U.S.

LD2005202588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1302 GMT 20 May 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 20 May—recorded]

[Excerpts] We have many problems that we must discuss in the second sermon, the most important of which is the question of war and the military conditions prevailing in the region. I will refer briefly to the other issues. The very rich statements of his holiness the imam on 'Id al-Fitr contain some points I want to stress. Later I will speak on important national issues.

The imam referred to the elections, saying that—thank God—despite all the plots to disrupt the elections, the voting process went quite well. Under conditions of war the Islamic Republic has succeeded in preserving democracy—a source of pride for us. If you read the history of countries at war then you know that usually under these conditions, these countries administer the country under martial law. Under no circumstances do they allow views, criticism, and statements by the people to threaten the war effort. Such issues are not allowed. Elections which provide the best ground for breeding differences of views and encounters cannot be held in such countries.

The holding of elections, particularly correct elections, in our society testifies to the health, strength, power, and stability of our society. This fact our enemies have also admitted. In the conditions in which our people were at times really at risk in most of the cities, standing in line was courting danger. The elections must be highly valued. It is an injustice to resort to very weak pretexts to condemn it, and to show a lack of gratitude to the fruits of the revolution and to the risks the people took in coming to the polls.

Now there may well be some protests here and there. I did say this after the first round of the elections. Now the second round has ended, and the third Majlis is about to convene. Therefore, I deem it necessary to give some advice to all of you, as a friend, a brother.

Well, as you can see, in any elections one party will be defeated. There can be no elections in which both contestants are happy, unless it is elections in the communist countries which are like horse races in which only one horse takes part.

If votes are to be cast, if there is to be freedom for everyone to nominate his candidate, explain his views, canvas for his own favorite candidates—and in fact our elections were like that, and you cannot say that it was not like that. [sentence as heard] There were many complaints. A number of people complained: Why when we have a great shortage of paper and resources are we placing so much paper, ink, and other materials at the disposal of candidates so that they may do so much canvassing? In these elections the freedom was great. Well, that is how it was. And in such elections some people receive votes and some do not receive votes. Some people may well complain that the electioneering propaganda was perhaps misleading. They may cite as an example that the advertisers attributed characteristics to someone who lacked them or vice versa. Well, of course, this is a Western tradition. We are not willing to allow misleading propaganda in the Islamic elections. We do not like to see smear tactics. However, such things do happen to a greater or lesser extent. This must not be seen as a shortcoming of the regime. Well, some individuals do resort to certain measures to achieve their own ends. In many countries, in Western countries that foster such things, you can see that such things occur to a great extent.

Not everyone can be happy. Like it or not, one wins. Now, if the votes are close then the losing party will be more hurt. However, if there is a wide margin in the number of votes cast, then it can be more acceptable to the losing party.

Now, if there is a change, if the elections are declared null and void and then the other party wins, then the party that has lost will start talking. Eventually, one party must leave the arena. One party wins and seven or eight parties lose or are defeated. We must show respect for the views of the people as Muslim. Even if we have some protests, we must use legal means. There is the Council of Guardians and other sources too, even the Majlis itself. Credentials will have to be checked. All these issues will be examined. I do agree that there may be some cases someone wins through fraud and then comes to the Majlis and stays there. This can happen. However, is it to our advantage to break the law, to undermine the regime, or should we try to close the loopholes for these exceptional cases in future laws?

Of course, the second option is right. The world has always worked to reach greater development, reduce the possibility of fraud, and has then arrived at a better system of elections. We will also continue to eliminate problems as we continue to hold free elections. However, in any case we had a sound election. The majority of those, almost all, who won are those who received votes.

I did say that the question of propaganda is a separate issue which merits a different debate. If we do not want such things then probably the law must take care of it. Maybe the third Majlis will take of it in the future. We have supervisors such as the Council of Guardians. If we had intended to elect a judge for this job we could not have found anyone better than them. And then the Majlis is itself the principal center. All these records will once more be investigated in the Majlis. God willing, we will investigate.

This is our request: We ask those whose candidates failed to be elected not to think they must now resort to confrontation. They must not think that there must be differences. The gentlemen who failed to receive sufficient votes must tell their friends to wait until the next elections. There must be no clashes. We expect the representatives not to plan to take revenge on those who worked against them in the election campaigns. They must not think of removing officials who did not cooperate with them during the election process.

Now let us all serve the people, these good people who have in any case proved that they are loyal to the revolution and that in the last 9 years they have been in the service of the revolution. Even then it makes no difference where we serve. I can say as a Majlis representative with 8 years' experience that to serve is not only to be in the Majlis, you can serve anywhere. [repetitive passage omitted] If someone really wants to serve, if he cannot serve in one place, he can serve in another. You do not have to serve in one particular place. You are learned people, educated people, you have a great deal of knowledge. The experience of those who have been in the Majlis can be useful to this society. We hope that henceforth there will be no bitterness of election disputes in our society and that the imam's advice is heeded, God willing. [passage omitted]

Another issue concerns Lebanon. Unfortunately, we are witnessing bitter days in Lebanon. The Satans are terrified by the strength and splendor of Shi'ism, particularly in the case of the revolutionary Muslims in Lebanon. They want to disrupt the uniform ranks of Islamic forces. For several days we have witnessed armed clashes between the people of Hizballah and those of the Amal movement which are both Shi'a. It makes you want to cry blood instead of tears over the fact that Muslims—at a time when the battlefield of jihad with Israel is open, when the battlefield of jihad with such-and-such a place is open, the battlefield of jihad with the United States is open, the battlefield of jihad with the Saddamists is open—have turned their weapons on each other and are shedding blood once again in the suffering and ruined cities of Lebanon. After all our efforts, after we sent delegations and tried so hard, we still find that sometimes, from one corner or another, the Satans fire a shot. They will not allow this field to be opened.

The main mission of Hizballah in Lebanon is to fight against Israel. They must not involve Hizballah in the internal problems of Lebanon. The Amal Movement has the duty to fight Israel and to deal inside Lebanon with the menace of the Phalangists, who have gripped the people of Lebanon like a cancer. Why should Muslim and Shi'a youths oppose each other? Why should Palestinians oppose each other? Two Palestinian camps, from near and from afar, are crushing each other. Their real enemy is a few kilometers away, in Israel, their people being pressured in that way. It is amazing. Why are things thus? We expect the leaders of Hizballah, Amal officials, our Syrian brothers, and other clergymen who are there to struggle to bring the bloodshed to an end, to stand united in the face of threats inside and outside Lebanon, and to take Lebanon toward peace and Islam, God willing. [crowd chants in support]

An occasion of interest during the coming week is that of the anniversary of the destruction of a number of holy shrines in refulgent Al-Madinah and other parts of the Hijaz [Saudi Arabia] since the takeover by the Al Sa'ud family. [passage omitted]

A more important issue for us is that of the war and the prevailing conditions. I urge the nation to pay attention to this part of my sermon because the future for us and our revolution as well the glory of Islam rest on a number of measures that we have to take at this time. Fortunately, our fighters in the fronts realized the crucial situation prevailing today well ahead of us and, having launched the lightning surprise operations of "Beyt al-Moqaddas-6," which is among the rarest of operations launched by our forces, gave a suitable response to the United States and the Iraqi Ba'th Party as well as the regional reactionaries. [cheers of audience] [passage omitted]

As for our situation in general, to safeguard its investments in the region and the interests which it has entrusted to certain agents, world arrogance will do its best. We are seeing more pressure from and the presence of the big powers because they feel their interests are more threated. This is the best proof.

After our victory in "Val-Fajr-10," which was truly a great victory, unless one goes to the area and sees the situation there one cannot understand what a great achievement it was. Our enemies, who are familiar with the area, when they saw how quickly and bravely our fighters easily captured 1,000 km of the most valuable Iraqi territory, they realized they should be more actively present in the region. I was nearby at the time of the operation, but a few days ago at the end of Ramadan I went to inspect the area closely. I want to explain to you so that you can understand. If someone wanted to cross the Alborz Mountains and invade Tehran—of course, Halabjah is not the same size as Tehran, I am speaking geographically—or an area between Karaj and Tehran, which is about the same size, about 30km by 30km, the size of the area they captured, to come down the trackless snow-covered and rocky Alborz Mountains to bring

their forces to capture this place with tanks, artillery, chemical weapons, helicopters, and planes, you can see how difficult that would be. [passage omitted]

To be fair, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, and France, and Saddam himself were justified in being frightened. [chants from crowd] If we were they, we would think that if the Iranians could stage a number of such operations, the fate of Iraqi Ba'th Party would be sealed, which would be a catastrophe for Eastern and Western arrogance. Therefore, we see a change in the presence of arrogance in the region. Suddenly they are tolerating so much disgrace that under normal circumstances they would not tolerate. The first disgrace was the tragic chemical bombing of Halabjah. [passage omitted] The second disgrace was that the Western world fully understood the gravity of this crime, and it was reported in Western media. [passage omitted]

If Easterners and Westerners had an ounce of humanity, this incident would have made them take serious measures. I believe that the United Nations, the Security Council, and those governments protecting Saddam will never live down this disgrace. [passage omitted]

Another disgrace for the Americans was in the Persian Gulf and the Al-Faw incident. We suffered a great loss, for reasons which we will explain to our nation in more appropriate circumstances. We lost Al-Faw. Of course, we will make this victory short-lived for Saddam and his protectors. [chanting from the crowd] However, the issue of the disgraceful acts being committed by the West and by reaction, particularly in the Persian Gulf, with regard to maintaining Saddam, is really curious and strange. I will give you examples. The last was the attack on Larak. It is very strange. I do not know what Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher, who were involved in this affair, will tell their nations and future generations. Of course, they may one day say quite frankly: We had to do it to protect our own interests. And maybe their nations, which are used to protecting their vital interests in other countries, will find it logical. But what about the free-thinking people of the world? Why did the United States enter the region? Well, it is constantly claiming that it has come for the security of the waterway, for the security of the ships. It knows that every time Iraq attacks a ship another ship will be attacked in retaliation by whatever means—let us say an invisible bullet. In other words, it is not possible for Iraq to attack a ship and for another ship not to be attacked in response. It has never happened.

With all its preparations—saying it will protect neutral ships henceforth—if it is sincere and really wants security in the region, then is it assisting Iraq by attacking our ships or not? If we put this question to 6-year-old children who have gone to kindergarten, the answer will be obvious to them. If we put the question to elderly people, they will give the same reply. Put the question to any intelligent person: If you have come for security, the means of obtaining it are clear. We say that in order to have security you should tell Iraq not to attack ships; Iraq is your servant after all; Iraq is your puppet. Were it not for money from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, their ports, Jordan's port, Turkey's ports, and their roads, your AWACS, and your propaganda support, then Iraq would not last. You know, we know, and the world knows that you can give orders to Iraq and it will obey them. You do not choose the easy way—just telling Iraq not to attack so that there will be security. Very well. You say we do not want to tie Iraq's hands. Up to this point you may be able to deceive people.

The second point: Do you have to help Iraq and cooperate with it so that it attacks ships? Until now you were saying no, but in the Larak affair it became clear that you cooperated—on your own admission. You denied what we said. We heard with our own ears, our pilots and the captains of our ships heard that there were communications between U.S. warships and Iraqi aircraft. You were saying: Come, now is the time; we have jammed the radars; we are interfering with the radios. You were saying these things. We heard them and said so. You did not accept it but admitted it yourself.

The British Foreign Office excelled itself. It wanted to maintain appearances. It summoned the Iraqi ambassador to say one of the ships hit was British. In order to maintain appearances in front of its people, it protested to the Iraqi ambassador, saying: Why did you attack our ship? The Iraqi ambassador said: We told you before. We said your ships should not be there. They admitted this officially, that is, the Foreign Office admitted that the Iraqis had informed them in advance, but that they had not taken the matter seriously. Well, what is the meaning of this? When Iraq tells Britain in advance: You who have fleets in the Persian Gulf and are protecting your own ships, be careful because we are going to have operations there; what does this signify? The Americans admitted it afterward. The commander of the U.S. fleet admitted that such-and-such a warship—he named the warship as well—was in the region and was monitoring.

A Spanish ship was attacked there. A British ship was attacked. A Liberian ship was attacked. What is amazing is that the losses that the Westerners themselves sustained were far more than that sustained by the Islamic Republic. Our losses were minor. The ships were insured, Western insurance, and whatever costs there were fell on their shoulders. Only one ship was insured by the Islamic Republic. All the other ships must be paid for out of their own pockets. What is strange is that they inflict losses on themselves just so that they can inflict some loss on the Islamic Republic. They inflict a heavy blow on themselves, so that they can give us a pinprick.

This is the policy in the world today. This shows their weakness. This shows the dead-end that they have reached. In OPEC—everyone knows this now—Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will not allow the price of oil to rise so that the Islamic Republic will have less foreign exchange. They sustain the greater part of the loss themselves. We sell approximately 2 million barrels,

they sell approximately 8 million barrels; four times our output. They sustain the loss and say: It is all right; let us lose, but let no money flow into Iran's pocket so that it cannot continue the war. This shows their impotence; it shows their desperation. In the case of the Arabs, well, we say they do not understand very well and they do these things. However, the Westerners themselves have adopted this stupid policy. Three of their ships are attacked, many people are killed. It is amazing. So many people, Polish, Filipinos, and Norwegians, were killed in that crime. The feeble and unjust Western world is silent. But let one person be assassinated in Lebanon and they will fill the air with their hue and cry. Why do you conspire and let your poor and weak sailors burn thus, so innocently under bombs and in the oil fires, and drown, but this is nothing about this in your media? You are partners in this crime. But let one of your people be involved when somewhere an oppressed group takes vengeance, and suddenly you fill the air with a hue and cry.

It is clear that you are a people whom God cannot and does not guide. You do not have the capacity for receiving God's guidance. What is appropriate for you is just that death of which his eminence the imam has spoken. [crowd chants "Death to America"]

A conclusion I have reached, beloved brothers and sisters, is that following 10 years of selfless sacrifices for our revolution and after 8 years of defending Islam we have given our most beloved sons for the sake of defending Islam. We have now reached a very crucial point. The enemy is facing a real danger and the secret supporters have uncovered their faces; the United States has blatantly entered into war with us. It has fought against us in Al-Faw and in the Persian Gulf with aircraft and missiles, and it has provided much intelligence and support to Iraq. Furthermore, it openly publicizes this. Our nation is absolutely not prepared to give up 8 years of holy war in the face of such coercion, threats, and such hue and cry. We must be prepared and if we are, we can deliver an appropriate response. The enemy will think twice if we are prepared as much as our boys were when they launched "Beyt ol-Moqqadas-6" operations just as soon as they felt the need for such an operation. The United States will then think twice. Mr Reagan is not required to pause and think since he is spending his last days in politics, and he does not need to ponder such issues. However, the American nation must realize that war against a nation such as Iran will be expensive for them. If this war is extended then one of the U.S. import items will be that of the U.S. dead from various parts of the world. [cheers of audience]

We do not want to welcome such an event but you are imposing it on us. We want our own rights, and we have shown you a clear path ahead. We have asked you a very clear question. Mr Murphy declared officially that if the question is which army entered which country, then it is obvious to all that it was Iraq that entered Iran. Is aggression anything other than that? He then added this deceitful point that the root cause of the war should be discussed. So be it. We do not oppose these discussions. The whole world knows that the Iranian nation was immersed in revolutionary conditions and was purging its armed forces. It was not ready to fight and did not want war. Now, if some events took place along the border or in other places, those could not be used as evidence for Iran's seeking war.

This approach is easy and we have shown a clear way. Provide what you admit to in the Security Council resolutions in an official manner. You can declare Iraq the aggressor and then call for a number of wise and unbiased people—not those who passed judgment on the Halabjah incident—to sit and discuss what to do with the aggressor. It is such an easy step. If you are not biased and have nothing to fear, if you do not harbor treachery or war-mongering ideas, if you have no interest in these clashes, which you do, then why do you not choose this way? Why do you pursue malice and deal so arrogantly with public opinion so that you lead the public up the wrong path? The way ahead is clear. Yes, you are wayward and you do not want to deal justly with the righteous. Our nation has made its mind up to win its rights. We will not sit idle even if only one person can raise a gun. [audience cheers] You must know that. [crowd cheers] Thank you.

You have proved that you are correct. Our nation has proved that the whole world realizes this. The United States is not only intervening in the Persian Gulf and elsewhere, it has official and unofficial elements who are busy eroding and weakening public morale. One recent display in the streets is the state of a number of improper ladies who have disregarded their duties of preserving the ideals of Islam and their appearances so blatantly in the face of sacrifices for Islam in this country where they are receiving services. I warn them that the nation will not tolerate this behavior. If you see they are slowing the pace of their response it is a test of your ways to see to what extent you have accepted this correct behavior and to what extent you are prepared to join the nation. Do not cause your own troubles.

I am giving you words of wisdom. Do not come to us and complain if you experience pressures from Hezbollah. [cheers of audience] I recommended at this site that the Hezbollah youth should be tolerant to some extent, but it seems you are not for tolerance. You misjudge such a subtle approach to the extent that you have made our foreign enemies call this a political move. Of course, we realize that you improper people are not politically active and do not understand politics. You are the same as the smugglers, hoarders, and profiteers who deep in their hearts do not agree with the revolution. You do not agree with the proper conduct and morality. One day the Islamic Revolution will deal with the elements who are trying to stab us in the back in such a situation. [audience cheers] [passage omitted]

Qom Theologians Refute Media Allegations
NC2205100988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Following completely fabricated reports published in American and British mass media about a call for ending the imposed war issued by the Society of Theologians of the Qom Seminary, the society has issued a statement describing the allegations by these arrogant media as baseless. The statement once again points to the need for continuing the struggles by the islamic fighters against the aggressive Iraqi regime until final victory.

One part of the statement notes that the colonialists will take the hopes for an imposed peace to their graves. The statement says: Neither we nor the people of Qom have seen the letter which was falsely claimed to have been distributed in Qom and signed by the Society of Theologians. The contents of the fabricated report calling for an end to the war and the commencement of peace talks with the Iraqi regime is a sweet dream of the American and British colonialists which will never materialize. The end of the war will be achieved only by the victory of the fighters of Islam.

Council of Guardians Considers Draft Bill
LD2205035088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 May 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Council of Guardians discussed the emergency draft bill on the duties and limits of the authority of the justice minister, relating to cases in which duties and authority for financial and administrative affairs and employment of nonjudiciary personnel are handed over by the Supreme Judicial Council. The council considered the draft bill to be not in accordance with the Constitution.

USSR's Ryzhkov Sends Message on Chemical Weapons
LD2105195088 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—The Soviet Union's Chairman of the Council of Ministers Nikolay I. Ryzhkov in a message to Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi Saturday condemned the use of chemical weapons terming it "a dangerous and savage act."

The message in response to Musavi's message on the Iraqi regime's deployment of chemical arms stresses that the use of such lethal arms is unjustifiable and against the very values of civilization and humanity. The Soviet official also denounced the deployment of any kind of chemical substances in war.

The repeated use of this anti-human weapon and the resultant massacre of innocent people confirms once more, the need for an effective international convention prohibiting the procurement, production, and storage of toxic arms and their eventual destruction, said Ryzhkov's message.

He concluded by pointing to the fact that extensive deployment of chemical weapons in the course of the Iraq-Iran war has made Moscow concerned.

Larijani Backs UN Proposal on Naming Aggressor
LD2105120088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's deputy minister for European and U.S. affairs, stated in a London interview that the aim of the United States and Iraq in raising the issue of peace is to save the aggressor. In this connection the Central News Unit has sent a report from London.

Mohammad Javad Larijani, the Foreign Ministry's deputy minister for European and U.S. affairs, announced that the aim of the United States and Iraq in raising the issue of peace is to save the aggressor, whereas our aim is suppression of the aggressor and the implementation of justice. Whenever justice (?is based on right), one can place some hope in diplomatic moves. He said: In our opinion, the UN secretary general's proposal incorporates that aspect and can be used toward the implementation of justice.

The deputy minister added: Iraq wants an escape route, but regardless of what consequences result from Resolution No 598, they will certainly not include an escape route for the Iraqi regime. Mr Larijani added: There are two main obstacles in the path of the UN secretary general's efforts with regard to the war: One is the obstructionist acts of the Iraqi regime, and the other, U.S. opposition to the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 598. He said: If the United States was prepared to allow the implementation of Resolution No 598 and the continuation of the UN secretary general's efforts, it would undoubtedly not have stationed its military fleet in the Persian Gulf. The United States needs the intensification of tension in the region as an excuse to keep its fleet there.

The deputy minister: The UN secretary general has no problems in his dealings with the Islamic Republic of Iran. He then stressed that despite the lies of some U.S. news circles, there have been no changes in the Islamic Republic of Iran's position with respect to the secretary general's efforts. The Islamic Republic of Iran is still prepared to accept the secretary general's proposal, which includes the formation of a committee for the identification of the aggressor, followed by the simultaneous naming of the aggressor and the establishment of a cease-fire. We have even suggested that a working

group should be ready at the Islamic Republic of Iran's UN office so that it can engage in technical negotiations whenever the secretary general wants.

Efforts To Broker Peace in Lebanon 'Success'

LD2105182488 Tehran IRNA in English 1803 GMT 21 May 88

["Iran's Conciliatory Efforts in Lebanon Beginning To Bear Fruits"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Beirut, May 21 IRNA—Following Iran's intensive efforts to end internecine clashes between Muslim groups in Lebanon, signs of success in putting an end to the pitiful incidents are now appearing on the horizon.

Positive signs of mediation efforts now in progress in Beirut, Damascus and Tehran have been obvious on the axes of confrontation between the Amal militia and Hizballah in the southern sector of the city.

The scenes of battle in southern Beirut were virtually calm last night with sound of sporadic gunfire occasionally disrupting the tranquillity.

Informed sources here cite the delivery of Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i's message to his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad by Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam on Friday and President al-Asad's insistence on the need to continue the joint Tehran-Damascus efforts to end the clashes as a proof of the success of these efforts.

According to these sources, extensive efforts jointly made by the Islamic Republic and Syria have served to noticeably prevent further bloodshed between the rival Muslim groups in southern Beirut.

Meanwhile, Iran's acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, currently here at the head of a delegation to patch up differences between the warring Muslim groups, today continued his contacts with the officials of Hizballah and Amal.

Scores of Lebanese families in southern Beirut, who had left their houses since the outbreak of the clashes were seen returning to their homes today after an appeal by prominent Lebanese Alim Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Fadlallah.

On Friday, Fadlallah in his weekly sermon to prayergoers urged southern Beirut residents to return to their homes. Hundreds of people have been killed and wounded in the 15-day clashes between Amal and Hizballah. The extent of damage inflicted by the clashes is estimated at dlrs 200 million.

Iraqi Claim of Downing Helicopter Denied

LD2205172888 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—The Islamic Republic today categorically denied an Iraqi claim that an Iranian military helicopter had been shot down in the operational region of Iraq's 1st Corps.

A Havaniruz (Army Aviation Service) operational commander, terming the Iraqi claim as a 'mere lie', said that all Iranian pilots had returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their missions.

The commander said the Baghdad rulers' allegations that the helicopter had crashed inside Iranian territory betrays the falsehood of these claims.

Air Force Commander Denies Iraq Downed F-14

LD2205173888 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—An Air Force operational commander today refuted Iraqi claims that its forces had shot downed an Iranian F-14 fighter. "All Iranian planes returned safely to bases after carrying out their routine operations today," he added.

"No reports exist on any dogfight in the areas under the control of the Iranian jets including the Persian Gulf region," said the commander, adding that the Iraqi claim is a "pure fabrication".

WIH Spokesman Denies Iraqi Claim on Basra Attack

LD2205105088 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Iraqi claims that Iran had attacked residential areas of the southern Iraqi city of Basra were categorically refuted by a spokesman of the WIH here today.

These allegations by the Baghdad regime are raised at a time that over 30 Iranian civilians were martyred and several houses were destroyed in enemy attacks on the western city of Paveh at mid-day Friday, said the spokesman.

The Baghdad regime is trying to justify its attacks on Iran's residential areas, said the spokesman, and warned Baghdad of its consequences.

'Zolfaqar' Sea Maneuvers in Persian, Oman Gulfs

LD2205123188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] The hour's first news report is devoted to a report sent by a Central News Unit correspondent about the commencement of the "Zolfaqar" maneuvers in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman:

The "Zolfaqar" sea maneuvers of the brave men of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy began today in the blue waters of the Gulf of Oman and the Indian Ocean with the participation of over 50 seaborne units. The maneuvers will focus on the maintenance of naval supremacy in the Persian Gulf and in the Gulf of Oman and on the joint preparedness of the naval, Ground and Air Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran to confront any form of conspiracy in the region.

Captain Shirazi, the commander of the Islamic Republic of Iran's naval force in Chahbahar, announced in an interview with the Central News Unit's correspondent in Zahedan that the following would take part in the "Zolfaqar" maneuvers: Over 50 seaborne units; missile carrying destroyers; heavy destroyers [nave shekanha-ye sangin]; logistical ships; personnel carriers; fast and missile-launching frigates [navchehha-ye tond-ro va mushak-andaz]; antisubmarine, mine-sweeping, and antiship helicopters; sea commandos; the airborne brigade of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Ground Forces; the heroic units of the airborne brigade; and the fast-flying fighters of the Air Force, along with transport planes.

The maneuvers will demonstrate the combat capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy to confront any wicked action of enemies of the Islamic Revolution in the blue waters of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean. He added: Today, the naval force of the Islamic Republic of Iran has an amazing presence, in full force, in a section of the world's waterways. Our naval war fleet will withstand any evil ploy.

In conclusion, Captain Shirazi referred to the high combat capacity of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and added: We will not ignore evil aggressions against the Islamic Republic of Iran's nonmilitary installations, and the brave forces of our Navy will not retreat. The brave Navy of the Islamic Republic declares that it will protect with all its strength the oil tankers and merchant ships of Islamic Iran in the Persian Gulf and that any foreign vessel, whether military or nonmilitary, planning to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, will be inspected by the Islamic Republic's Navy and if they are carrying the least amount of cargo for the Zionist Iraqi enemy, all their cargo will be confiscated for the benefit of the deprived and the oppressed.

[Signed] The Central News Unit, Zahedan

Maneuvers End Successfully

NC2305080188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 23 May 88

[Text] Three stages of the "Zolfaqar" maritime maneuvers have been performed with complete success in our southern coastal waters. According to correspondents dispatched to the area, the units involved displayed their combat readiness in various maritime maneuvers in the defense of the interests and sovereignty of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the strategic waters of the region. They also successfully implemented and completed plans to increase coordination among the naval, air, and sea units the Islamic armed forces. The same report states that various exercises, involving diving, telecommunications, aerial targeting, transit of mineswept canals, and joint measures with airborne units of the Air Force, were carried out successfully in three stages of the "Zolfaqar" maneuvers. With absolute skill the Islamic fighters displayed their defense and combat capability in various stages of the maneuvers.

Yesterday seaborne and airborne units of the Navy displayed various combat tactics on the 1st day of these maneuvers and carried out targeting exercises by aircraft and surface units, paratroop landings for capturing surface targets, naval unit firing on these targets, and electronic warfare operations with absolute success in the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. In these exercises tens of warships, logistical ships, personnel carriers, minesweeping and antisburmarine [zedd-e zirdarya'i] vessels, and diving units participated.

Other exercises included telecommunications, surveillance operations, helicopter reconnaissance, defense from attacking divers, helicopter landings on and take-off from the decks of seaborne units, transit of mineswept canals, and exchange of combat information with speed and accuracy. Successful electronic warfare operations carried out yesterday by the seaborne units included methods of creating interference in enemy radar and telecommunications systems and preventing electronic interference by the enemy in our telecommunications systems.

According to a commander of the "Zolfaqar" maneuvers, the operational units involved achieved all their set objectives in yesterday's exercises and displayed their combat-readiness for the defense of our Islamic country's maritime frontiers in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Some destroyers and missile-launching frigates of the Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces carried out firing exercises against hypothetical floating targets with strength and accuracy.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Iraqi Aircraft Bomb Paveh

LD2005165188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] The aircraft of the Iraqi aggressive regime this morning bombed a number of residential quarters of Paveh. The Governorate-General in Bakhtaran reports that more than 30 citizens were martyred, a number were injured, and a number of houses were damaged or destroyed.

Communique No 3,208

LD2005180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1747 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 20, IRNA—Iranian jets heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Faqqeh, southern fronts, at 02:14 GMT Friday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy and returning safely to bases, said a military communique here today.

The 3208th Joint Staff communique said that the Islamic Republic Air Force also carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman yesterdayi n support of the Navy.

Iran's naval units in addition to controlling shipping in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday monitored movement of Iraqi and foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf.

On Thursday, 10 Iraqi warplanes attempted to approach two southern Iranian islands and an oil rig but were forced to flee by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

At 11:30 hours (08:00 GMT) Wednesday, Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on Iranian positions and on two villages around Marivan town, northwestern Iran, as a result of which a number of civilians and combatants were martyred and wounded.

On the battlefields Thursday, Iraqi troops sustained considerable losses in men and equipment in artillery and mortar duels with Iran's Muslim combatants.

Iranian artillery fire suppressed Iraqi tanks in Helaleh and Panjwin and checked enemy logistical activities in Zobeydah and Faqqeh yesterday, setting ablaze several vehicles.

Reconnaissance flights of Iraqi helicopters were checked by Iranian anti-aircraft fire in Kani-Sheykh and Nahr 'Anbar, Western sector, Thursday, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Forces 'Razed' Villages

LD2105145288 Tehran IRNA in English 1102 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., May 21, IRNA—The Iraqi Ba'thist regime razed three more villages in Qalat Dizah and Diyanah of Iraq Thursday in line with its criminal policy against the Kurdish people of Iraq.

Residents of Basijin, Mamandeh and Sufina [placenames as received] the three villages destroyed by the Iraqi Ba'thist forces, were forced to abandon their homes.

Peshmergas Destroy Iraqi HQs

LD2105134788 Tehran IRNA in English 1337 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., May 21, IRNA—Muslim peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) destroyed headquarters of Iraq's Company 122 and its nearby bases in the northern Shaykhan region during their blitz operations last week.

According to reports reaching here from inside Iraq scores of Ba'thist troops were killed and 35 others captured by the peshmergas who also seized intact a good amount of heavy and light weapons of the government troops.

IRGC on Kurdish Moves in Iraq

LD2205121288 Tehran IRNA in English 1140 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Iranian combatants in league with Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas stormed two government bases in Dasht-e Hart and Minati regions in northern Irbil Province last week, killing scores of Ba'thist soldiers and destroying the bases and four vehicles.

Announcing the above here Sunday, the Ramadan Headquarters, the guerrilla warfare center of the IRGC, added that the joint forces also ambushed Iraqi troops in Margesur region, a suburb of Irbil Province over the same period, killing four soldiers.

Joint Staff Communique

LD2105173488 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 21, IRNA—Iranian jets in their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman reconnoitered 13 oil tankers, tugboats, launches and warships Friday, reported the 3029th [number as received] Joint Staff communique today.

It said Iranian naval units checked activities of two Iraqi vessels near Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms at the headwaters of the Persian Gulf yesterday in addition to the southern waters.

On the war fronts Friday, Iranian artillery fire over Iraqi positions and strongholds silenced [words indistinct], destroying several gun emplacements and two munitions dumps and inflicting some casualities on the Ba'thist troops.

Several Iraqi patrols came under heavy Iranian artillery fire in Helaleh, Qasr-e Shirin and Qareh Tappeh regions in the western fronts yesterday and fled the areas sustaining some casualties.

On Friday Muslim combatants disrputed or halted Iraqi motorized activities in Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, Panjwin, Kharratha, Sumar, Helaleh, Qasr-e Shirin and Nahr 'Anbar operational theaters. Iraqi engineering activities in Yebis operational region were brought to a halt with enemy troops sustaining some casualties and losses.

Several gun emplacements and a military vehicle were destroyed and some Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when enemy positions in parts of the southern and western fronts came under artillery fire of the Iranian Gendarmerie forces Friday, the communique concluded.

Iraqi Plane Repelled Over Ilam

LD2205101288 Tehran IRNA in English 1004 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—An Iraqi warplane was detected flying at a high altitude over Iran's Ilam Province at 11:05 hours local time (07:35 GMT) Sunday but was repelled by heavy ground-to-air fire of the Iranian forces.

The Iraqi warplane broke the sound barrier over the city of Ilam.

Air Force Reconnoiters Ships

LD2205154088 Tehran IRNA in English 1532 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday in support of the Navy, reconnoitering 21 vessels in the waterway, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3210th communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Sumar, Maymak and Zobeydah where Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded an three enemy bunkers and a vehicle destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday.

A number of Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Mehran, Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis, western and southern fronts, sustained several casualities and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

Heavy fire of Iran's Muslim combatants halted movement of an Iraqi motorized column in Qasr-e Shirin, western sector, Saturday destroying a number of enemy vehicles.

In Panjwin and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and southern sectors, Iraqi troops suffered several casualties and fire of enemy tanks was silenced Saturday by Iranian artillery fire, concluded the communique.

Flag of Freedom on Unrest, Khomeyni's Poor Health

NC2105130488 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] It is rumored within Tehran's knowledgeable circles that Ruhollah Khomeyni is ill, and that the regime's efforts to depict him as healthy on television during the voting have not convinced anyone. It is said that Khomeyni cannot walk by himself, except for a few steps with difficulty, and that he requires assistance. All those who watched Ruhollah Khomeyni casting his vote on television clearly saw that he is nearly blind and unable to see more than a meter in front of him or to place his vote in the slit of the ballot box.

It is also said in Tehran that one of the reasons for the cresting of differences among the clergymen's ruling clique is the deteriorating health of the already half-dead Khomeyni. Our compatriots from Tehran say that the mounting antagonistic protests against the regime and the staging of street demonstrations against Khomeyni have caused conditions in Tehran and other major cities to become tense. People have crowded into the banks in order to withdraw their deposits. Our co-combatants report that the people's anxiety is understandable, as they are afraid that if the situation deteriorates any further, they will not be able to withdraw their money from the banks. This is completely logical because it is highly probable that the street demonstrations against Ruhollah Khomeyni and the continuation of the war may escalate in the next week.

In addition, with the destruction of the oil platforms and the bombing of the Larak oil platform, Iran's oil exports have dwindled to a minimum level, depriving the regime of its oil income. Therefore, there is a possibility that in the near future that the government may freeze the people's assets in the banks in order to use them for its own purpose.

Flag of Freedom Reports IRGC Coup Attempt

NC2105131688 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] It is rumored within circles close to the ruling clique that following the exposure of the incompetence of the IRGC commanders in safeguarding the Al-Faw Peninsula, a group of IRGC commanders, instigated by Mohsen Reza'i, decided to stage a coup d'etat. However, Mohsen Reza'i's opponents received information concerning this and reported it to Ruhollah Khomeyni. It is also rumored that the regime's officials immediately arrested those who were involved.

It was reported in Tehran that Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri is among those who considers Mohsen Reza'i unfit to carry on the war. It may be recalled that a while ago, Montazeri had remarked to his associates that Mohsen Reza'i knows nothing more of militarism than we do, who as clerics know nothing of war.

Opposition to Mohsen Reza'i mounted so fiercely last week that he became terribly afraid, and in order to save face he admitted that the IRGC do not have adequate military training. Mohsen Reza'i's statements, after 8 years of war and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of IRGC, has had a very adverse effect on the people, particularly among the IRGC.

The people, and in particular the IRGC, are asking that if the Guards' training is inadequate and they are not prepared for warfare, why are they sent to the battlefronts? Do the Islamic regime's officials delight in their being killed on the fronts, or do they consider such killings necessary for the perpetuation of their government?

Pakistan

Shi'ite, Sunni Muslims Clash in Gilgit

BK2205155688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1544 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 22 (AFP)—Between 15 and 25 people have been killed in six days of clashes between Shi'ite and Sunni Moslems in and around the town of Gilgit in northern Pakistan, diplomatic sources said here Sunday.

Shi'ite sources here put the death toll in the riots at between 30 and 40, including women and children, while witnesses reported at least 10 deaths and continuing tension in the town Sunday.

Gilgit, a mountain town 200 kilometres (120 miles) north of Islamabad, was under curfew, according to the local press which has only reported briefly on the incidents.

The violence began near the market in the centre of the town when the Shi'ites decided to celebrate the end of the Moslem fast of Ramadan one day ahead of the Sunnis, the various sources said. The Shi'ite sources said two villages near Gilgit were at one point attacked by armed Sunnis. The authorities said Sunday they had no official information on the incidents.

Travellers returning from the region said they saw convoys of trucks and tractors carrying armed Sunnis heading towards Gilgit Thursday and Friday while Shi'ites were setting up roadblocks and searching vehicles for weapons.

Officials at Islamabad Airport were advising foreigners not to travel to Gilgit where they said the "situation was uncertain."

Press Statement Issued on Siachen Issue

BK2005155188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] Pakistan and India have expressed their determination to resolve the intricate Siachen Glacier issue under the Simla Agreement through peaceful negotiations. A joint press statement issued at the end of the meeting of the defense secretaries of the two countries in Islamabad says both sides have considered some special proposals and agreed to review them further. They also agreed to hold the next round of talks in New Delhi during August-September this year. Detailed discussions were held during the full session yesterday and the concluding session today.

The press statement says that Indian Defense Secretary S.K. Bhatnagar also called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo, and Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud Khan. During these meetings the Indian defense secretary conveyed messages of goodwill and best wishes of the Indian leaders and expressed their determination to settle all bilateral issues, including the Siachen Glacier issue, through negotiations.

Junejo Departs on East Asian 'Goodwill Visit'

BK2205055488 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left Islamabad this morning for Beijing to begin a goodwill visit to some East Asian countries. He will make a brief stopover in Hong Kong tomorrow and meet with Pakistanis living there. The following day he will go to Seoul. His visit there will strengthen Pakistan-Korean ties and consolidate the existing friendly and close relations between the two countries.

Before leaving, the prime minister said Pakistan honors the Geneva accords and will take all measures necessary for its implementation. He said the Geneva accords and other matters of mutual interest will be discussed during his visit to China.

Pakistan is aware of the current problems being faced by Muslims of the southern Phillippines. Pakistan fully supports the realization of legitimate sovereign rights of the Philippines Muslims in accordance with the Tripoli Agreement of 1976 and January 1977 Jeddah pact signed under the auspices of the ICO. Pakistan hopes the Philippines Muslims' problems will be soon resolved within the framework of territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Philippines.

The prime minister's entourage includes the minister of state of foreign affairs, Mr Zain Noorani; the federal minister for industries, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain; the Punjab chief minister, Mian Nawaz Sharif; some parliament members and senior officials.

Comments on Relations

BK2205064288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 May 88

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has expressed the hope that his visit to ROK and Philippines and brief stopovers in Beijing and Hong Kong will contribute toward further strengthening Pakistan's political and economic relations with these countries of Southeast Asia. He was talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport before leaving for Beijing on a week's goodwill visit to these countries. He said Pakistan honors the Geneva accords and will take all measures for its full implementation.

The prime minister referred to very close friendly ties with China and said China has always supported Pakistan on Afghanistan and other problems. He added he will discuss with the Chinese leaders in Beijing various issues including the post-Geneva accords situation and congratulate the new Chinese prime minister, Mr Li Peng. He will also meet the new secretary general of the CPC, Mr Zhao Ziyang. He also referred to Pakistan's friendly relations with ROK and Philippines. [passage omitted]

Ziaul Haq Notes Upcoming Visit to China

BK2205065288 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has expressed his hope that the implementation of the Geneva accords will restore the independent and nonaligned status of Afghanistan. He stated this at a dinner hosted by Chinese Ambassador Tian Ding in Islamabad last night. The president said that following the signing of the Geneva accords, the Afghan problem is now at a crucial point. He expressed confidence that Afghanistan will soon be a peaceful country and people of Afghanistan will have a government of their choice.

Referring to his forthcoming visit to China [30 May-7 June], the president said he is looking forward to his meetings with Chinese President Yang Shangkun, Prime Minister Li Peng, and CPC Chairman Zhao Ziyang. Earlier, the Chinese ambassador in his speech expressed confidence that the Pakistan president's will further strengthen and consolidate the existing friendly relations with China and Pakistan.

President Stresses 'Effective Defense Machinery'

BK2305035988 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has underlined the need for an effective defense machinery to provide deterrents in a volatile region and the present geopolitical environment. He was speaking at the launching of a book entitled "Defenders of Pakistan" in Islamabad this evening. The president said it is not the Armed Forces alone but the whole nation which defends the country. The Armed Forces only formed a frontline of the defense.

He referred to the induction of sophisticated weapons like nuclear submarines and aircraft carriers in the country's neighborhood and said although they are not in competition with anybody, they had to match fire with fire, tank with tank, and destroyer with destroyer, if not in quantities, at least, in qualitative terms. The president said the country has so far given the best that it can afford to the Armed Forces and he complimented the government for this.

Turning to Afghanistan and the Geneva accords, the president said the Pakistani nation has not been able to get its rightful credit due to the tragedy of the Ojri [arms depot] camp blast. He said it is a matter of credit how the nation stood steadfast for over 8 years. These sacrifices have supported the government's policy on the subject. It is a great credit and we must take it.

The president praised the book and said it provided vital information which will wash away prejudices against the armed forces based on ignorance.

Earlier, eminent persons from different walks of life expressed their views on the book and generally welcomed it. The publisher of the book, Mr Mohammad Amin, in a brief introduction said the book had been very well received by the Pak analysts in Western countries.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Invites JVP To Abandon Violence

BK2205112988 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] President Jayewardene has invited the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna to give up violence and enter the democratic process. Addressing a rally at Katunayake yesterday, he said he was prepared to meet the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna any time. Rohana Wijeweera has now been given the freedom to hold even a roundtable discussion with him. The present government, which assumed office in 1977, released him and others from prison. He said that subsequently he ordered their activities to be investigated for 5 years during which period

they contested elections and participated in May Day demonstrations. However, the same group started launching terrorist activities in 1983 resulting in the proscription of the party.

The ban on the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna has now been removed and now it has the freedom to hold discussions and enter the democratic process. The president stressed that despite the killing of ruling United National Party [UNP] candidates, the fight against terrorism will be continued and that full protection will be given to the candidates. He pledged that the UNP will not allow anyone to obstruct the holding of elections.

Minister of National Security, Trade, and Shipping Lalith Athulathmudali said that there may be shortcomings in the government, which had ruled for the past 11 years, but added that no other party other than the United National Party could put forward alternatives to solve the problems of the people.

Indian Officer, Soldier Killed in Landmine Blast
BK2005120888 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 20 May 88

[Text] A senior Indian officer and a soldier of the Indian Peacekeeping Force [IPKF] were killed in a Tamil terrorist landmine blast which also destroyed their vehicle at Vavuniya.

In Trincomalee, an armed Tamil terrorist gang raided the house of a Hindu priest and robbed jewelry valued at over 100,000 rupees.

The IPKF arrested three [as heard] Tamil terrorists of the PLOTE gang, Ravi and Dinesh, in Vavuniya. They also nabbed a Tamil terrorist, code-named Anthony, and his two sons, (?Shahjahan) and Lawrence.

In the Eastern Province, the IPKF captured a Tamil LTTE gang boss of the area, Robert alias Palani. During a search operation, the Indian troops also captured 12 Tamil terrorists. A report from Vavuniya says that a gang of LTTE Tamil terrorists had fired at Sri Lanka Army soldiers who were providing protection to farmers in the paddy fields. The Sri Lankan soldiers counterattacked and the Tamil terrorists ran away. The IPKF detachment which was also located nearby was informed and set out in a search of the terrorists. They reported that there were about 15 Tamil terrorists clad in camouflage uniform.

JVP Poses 'Biggest' Challenge to Government
BK2105025088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0229 GMT 21 May 88

[By M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Colombo, May 21 (AFP)—Using lessons learnt from a failed uprising 17 years ago, Sinhalese militants now pose one of the biggest challenges to the Sri Lankan Government. Nearly 10,000 people died in 1971 when a youth insurrection by the Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) aimed at seizing power was stamped out.

Now, capitalising on anti-India sentiment among some majority Sinhalese, the JVP, or People's Liberation Front, has staged a violent and bloody comeback.

"They are getting bolder," a Defence Ministry official said, commenting on the exploits of the group blamed for some 300 murders since India and Sri Lanka signed an accord in July to end a Tamil separatist campaign. The JVP opposes the pact, under which India has deployed about 52,000 soldiers in the island, as a sell-out to New Delhi and the minority Tamils. Despite reports of a split in the leadership, the JVP has continued its orgy of killings, directed mainly at the ruling United National Party (UNP) and the mainstream leftists, who also back the accord.

"Their long-term strategy is to rule (from Colombo)," the defence official said. "Today's JVP has had more exposure to violent tactics. They have seen the Tamils ... they are only waiting for an opportunity."

The JVP is headed by Rohana Wijeweera, a dropout from Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University, now in his 40's. Police dub him a fanatic, dedicated to the group he set up nearly 20 years ago. The JVP is widely believed to have come into being in 1970, but some police officers say it has existed since 1968. After years of ups and downs, it is now estimated to have some 100 hard-core members—who also form the roving killer squads—and hundreds of supporters, mostly in the island's deep south.

The JVP calls itself Marxist, but leftist leaders and critics accuse it of being a chauvinist, anti-Tamil group.

"There was a time when you could rightly call JVP leftist," a former Central Committee member now on its hit-list told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. "Not so anymore."

In the past 10 months, the JVP has stolen nearly 100 weapons, mostly Chinese T-56 rifles, from the police and military installations, building up the sort of armoury that did not exist in 1971. Its main victims have included movie star-turned-opposition leader Vijaya Kumaratunga, UNP Chairman Harsha Abeywardene, Police Deputy Inspector General Terrence Perera and UNP General Secretay Nandalal Fernando.

Deputy Inspector General (CID) Frank Silva told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that careful planning and the surprise element helped JVP killers to escape in most cases.

"The JVP threat is very real," said a social scientist. "They appeal to a predominantly rural-based educated youth as the only hope for tomorrow."

The group also has several deserters from the Armed Forces, angry at the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord's stipulation that they be confined to barracks in Tamil areas, police said. Despite the deployment of thousands of troops, commandos and police personnel, individual killings and violent incidents blamed on the JVP have shown a marked upswing in recent months.

Colombo lifted a five-year ban on the group on May 10 after National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali announced an agreement with the JVP. A signatory to the accord later said his leadership had not approved his action. But the government has not re-imposed the ban.

Paper Hopeful About Peace Accord With JVP

BK2005115988 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 12 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "A Durable Peace?"]

[Text] While all Lankans would have been elated at yesterday's news that a peace agreement with the southern subversives appeared to have been reached, it is appropriate that the authorities meticulously check out the authenticity of the signatures on the document.

The JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], of course, is an underground organisation, and its leaders have been in hiding since 1983 when the proscription order was made. In the circumstances, it is understandable that neither Rohana Wijeweera nor Upatissa Gamanayake showed up publicly to sign an agreement to end the violence.

As our news columns made clear, Father Tissa Balasuriya had not actually witnessed the signing of the agreement by the JVP leaders. That is to say, he was not physically present when those two signatures were placed on the document. Thus, it is reasonable that the Government should ask the Examiner of Questioned Documents to authenticate the signatures.

The fact remains that the country has only Mr. K.C. Senanayake's word that Wijeweera and Gamanayake had signed for the JVP. While suspicion, and an unwillingness to accept the go-between's bona fides are admittedly inappropriate, it must also be conceded that an abundance of caution is necessary in these matters. Hence, the continuing checks.

Mr. Athulathmudali had also asked Mr. Senanayake to support the signatures he is believed to have obtained with voicecasts and a letter. As we reported yesterday, the negotiations began on the basis of a letter from Mr. Gamanayake where the signature, the minister said, had been verified.

Let us all hope that the peace deal is authentic and the senseless violence is now an unhappy past chapter in the nation's history. It is heartening that no major incidents have been recorded since the signing and this certainly augurs well for the hope that everything is in order.

From the JVP's point of view, an agreement such as Tuesday's makes sound sense. Sri Lanka is now in an election year; and, although it may not be possible for new nominations for those provincial council elections—for which nominations have closed—a presidential and parliamentary election must follow—though in what order we do not yet know.

Rohana Wijeweera was a runner at the 1982 presidential election; and he finished third behind President Jayewardene and Mr. Hector Kobbekaduwe. Though the gap between the first and second runner-up was substantial, the fact remains that the JVP was able to poll a not inconsiderable number of votes.

Without doubt, the party which enjoys official recognition has support, not least from youth groups. It is logical that the JVP mobilises such support in the electoral process. That would not be possible if it remains outlawed and underground. So, an agreement to end the violence and enter the democratic mainstream is good sense. Under the proportional representation (PR) system, in particular, the party can make its presence felt in the country's political scene. But—as President Jayewardene rightly said—it is important tha that the JVP acts within the law.

Mr. Anura Bandaranaike went on record over the weekend offering portfolios, including that of youth and employment, in a future government the SLFP hopes to form, to the JVP, provided it laid aside its guns and functioned as a democratic political party. That, in itself, was a clear enough indication of the SLFP's assessment that the JVP is a force to be reckoned with and which could help the blue party to topple the greens.

Whether the JVP has accepted the SLFP's stated economic policies which now favour free enterprise and economic liberalism, and whether the SLFP goes along with the JVP brand of Marxism and ideology are other matters that will, no doubt, be publicly aired if the new axis Mr. Bandaranaike appears to seek is developed.

All that, of course, is for the future. For the present, what matters most is whether an authentic peace deal has, in fact, been struck; and, if so, will it be properly implemented? That the violence ends, that all democratic political groups take their legitimate places in the national polity, and the people are permitted to—freely and fairly—choose their government, are matters that need no debate.

That is why all Lanka is now keeping its fingers crossed that a durable peace is now in the making.